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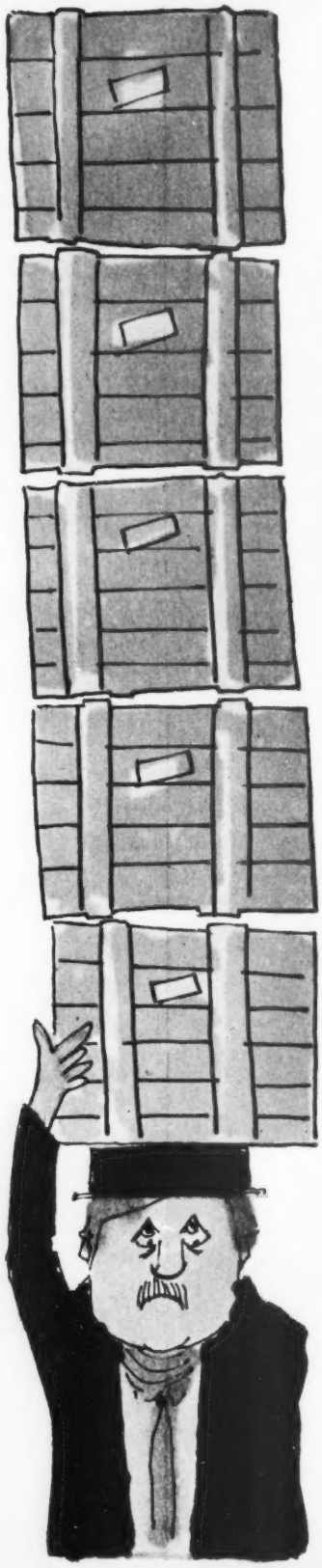

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Trade and Industry

17 March 1978

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

A vessel with engine trouble limps into harbour in rough water. World Maritime Day, being held today for the first time, is designed to draw attention to the safety, welfare and training of seafarers (page 580).

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HOME

One-year extension for modified TES

Following discussions between the Department of Employment and the European commission, the commission announced on Wednesday (15 March) that the UK temporary employment subsidy scheme (TES) should be extended in a modified form for one year. The scheme, already operating in the UK, would have expired on 31 March.

The government is to introduce a new short-time working scheme to ensure that no jobs are lost as a result of changes to TES.

Fewer-monthly price increases still

The number of price increases sought by larger firms rose to 315 a month during the period 1 November 1977 to 31 January 1978, said the Price Commission in its quarterly report published on Wednesday (15 March). This compares with 215 a month in the previous quarter, still considerably fewer than the average of 578 for January to July last year.

During the quarter covered by the report, the Price Commission completed six investigations and submitted reports on them to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. It also started seven new investigations.

Report calls for trade discount review

The Price Commission wants the food manufacturing industry to review the commonly used system of overriding discounts – discounts on total annual purchases of a supplier's products by a trade customer. In a report published on Tuesday, the commission says that in certain circumstances it considers this may distort competition.

The report adds that trade bonuses did not appear to relate to cost savings and may favour only large customers. The trade should consider replacing these bonuses with discounts which reflected cost savings and which were non-discretionary.

These recommendations are made in the Price Commission's report (HMSO, 85p) on its investigation into price increases by Cadbury Schweppes Foods Ltd of its general range of food products, including cocoa-based goods.

The commission concluded that the increase in the price of cocoa products was unavoidable in view of the substantial increase in raw material prices. The amount of the price increase had been limited as a result of the company's policies.

The report is being considered by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

British Gas price restriction revoked

With the elimination of £36 million excess profits made by British Gas in 1976-77, the Price Commission revoked on Tuesday the notice issued on 14 July last year under the Counter Inflation Act 1973. This required the corporation to restrict prices and charges for the supply of gas and the performance of services.

The notice required the corporation to make no further increases in prices and charges (except those increased by virtue of an order of consent made by the Secretary of State for Energy on 28 March 1977) until the excess profits had been eliminated.

Ever-Ready 7 per cent price increase rejected

Ever-Ready dry batteries should go up in price by only 2 per cent – and not the 7 per cent proposed by the company – and the new price should be held until September. This is the recommendation of the Price Commission in its report published on Monday, HMSO, 85p).

Charles Williams, the commission's chairman, said that the commission accepted that the company would need to invest heavily if it was to become a major producer of the newer battery systems, and when those investment decisions were made and the cash flows known, the commission may have other factors to take into account when looking at pricing policy.

The investigation report noticed that the company's higher discounts to larger distributors and retailers tended not to be passed on to the customer. The commission considered that the company should bring its discount structure more into line with differences in costs.

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection is considering the report.

Local price surveys to go on

More money is to be made available for local price surveys and the government will go on financing them for another 12 months, said Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on Monday.

In reply to a parliamentary question, he said that the government would increase the maximum grant for each survey from £1,200 to £1,300 a year so that the results might be more widely publicised and this would run for a further 12 months from 1 April 1978.

Mr Maclennan added that using price survey results could help the consumer make significant savings. A ready comparison of shop prices was essential to this and to maintaining proper competition. The 230 or so existing price surveys performed a useful service in this respect.

Skytrain to LA: public hearing

Laker Airways' application to run a Skytrain service between London and Los Angeles is being considered by the Civil Aviation Authority at a public hearing which opened yesterday (Thursday) at the authority's headquarters in Kingsway, London.

British Caledonian Airways, which holds a licence for this route, has announced that it would operate a London-Los Angeles service if designated. The service would include new low fares.

Seventh highway code edition launched

William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, launched a new edition of the highway code – the seventh since the first was issued in 1931 – on Tuesday. In the

intervening years enormous changes and developments have occurred in vehicles, traffic and road design. In addition to pedestrians and cyclists the highway code is aimed at some 22 million people with driving licences. The new code will cost 25p.

STATISTICS

UK trade back in the black

Current account of the UK balance of payments for February is estimated to have been in surplus by £184 million, following the deficit of £234 million in January.

There was a surplus on trade in goods in February of £84 million, following the erratic deficit of £334 million in January. Much of the improvement reflected a reversal of the movements in trade which had contributed to the January figure. Exports were valued at £3,000 million and imports £2,916 million. The balance on invisibles is projected to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £100 million.

In the three months ended February, the current account was in deficit by £24 million, compared with a surplus of £523 million in the previous three months. About two-fifths of this reduction reflected adverse movements in the more erratic elements of visible trade and an increase in the deficit in trade in oil.

In the latest three months, visible trade was in deficit by £326 million, with the surplus on invisibles at £302 million (see page 625).

OVERSEAS

Awards for small export earners

Small firms which have notched up export successes were presented with awards in London on Tuesday (14 March) by the Earl of Limerick, member of the British Overseas Trade Board, in the ninth export awards for smaller manufacturers competition.

Winners of this year's awards are Beverley Engineering Ltd and subsidiary companies; R. S. Clare and Co Ltd; Sensitisers (Western) Ltd; Jack Holt Ltd; and Cotswold Pig Development Co Ltd. Runners-up are Q Mark International; Palmer Research Laboratories Ltd; James Maude and Co Ltd; Jedmond Engineers Ltd; and Fleetwood Caravans Sales Ltd.

The awards are made to independent British manufacturing companies with a staff of less than 200 which have doubled the value of their exports in the past two years. This year 106 companies entered. The competition is sponsored by British Airways, the *Daily Express*, the British Overseas Trade Board, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce and supported by the Department of Industry, the Confederation of British Industry and the TUC.

Technology aids Channel safety

Modern technology is helping to overcome the hazards facing shipping in the Channel, according to a report issued on Wednesday (15 March) by the Anglo-French Safety of Navigation Group.

The group, responsible for advice on improving safety in the Channel, believes that the installation of the latest data-processing techniques to handle radar information will be a major asset in developing the UK Channel navigation information service (CNIS) and its French equivalent, SINM.

EUROPE

EEC-Cyprus agricultural talks re-open

Negotiations re-opened on Tuesday (14 March) between the EEC and Cyprus on new terms for agricultural imports. This is the third and possibly the final round of talks.

On 7 March, the foreign affairs council agreed on a revised mandate for the negotiation of new terms. It is hoped that the revision will meet Cyprus' objections to the original mandate, expressed during previous talks in December and January.

EEC-ACP session in Brussels

Monday (13 March) saw the opening in Brussels of the third meeting of the council of ministers of the EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific states.

The EEC delegation was led by Lise Ostergaard, Danish minister without portfolio and president-in-office of the community, and the ACP delegation by Mr P. J. Patterson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica and president-in-office of the ACP council of ministers. Judith Hart, Minister for Development, headed the UK team.

The 50 ACP states who are parties to the Lomé convention took part in the meeting and the three states whose agreements on accession to the convention are currently being ratified attended with observer status.

Among the items considered were the working methods of the EEC-ACP council of ministers; a follow-up to the resolution adopted at the Fiji meeting last year on financial and technical co-operation in 1976; and how the Lomé convention could be applied to financial matters, general trade arrangements and trade promotion, special products and industrial co-operation.

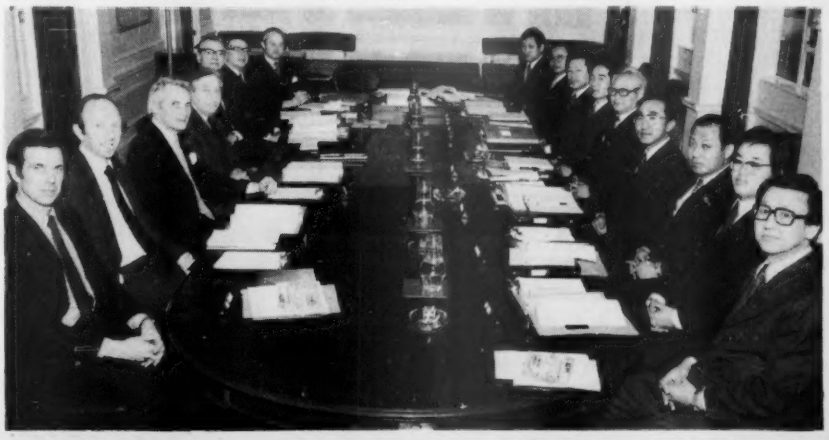
Colombo re-elected EP president

Emilio Colombo (Christian Democrat member from Italy) was re-elected president of the European parliament when the 1978-79 session was formally opened in Strasbourg on Tuesday (14 March).

This will be Mr Colombo's second year in office.

Koreans discuss 1978 loans with ECGD

On Monday (13 March), senior officials of the Export Credits Guarantee Department met a delegation from the Republic of Korea's Economic Planning Board, to discuss economic co-operation between the UK and Korea. The Koreans, led by Hwa-June Tcha, Director-General of the Economic Co-operation Bureau of the Economic Planning Board, asked ECGD to guarantee six priority projects worth $253.1 million in Korea, during 1978. With other projects this would bring the amount of British loans under guarantee in the Republic of Korea this year to $500 million. The ECGD officials, led by Kenneth Taylor, head of ECGD, and Robert Kemp, under-secretary at the department, indicated ECGD was willing to support finance for this amount.



Home news

More flexible approach to competition needed – Hattersley

Speaking at the Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre on 10 March, Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said that he believed that West Midlands industry had special characteristics, marked by a high degree of fierce and genuine competition. It contained a large number of small firms, for it was an area where new companies were founded, succeeded and grew. It was in many ways rough and tough, but it was a model and pattern from which more self-protective and less aggressive parts of the economy could learn and benefit.

He said that the willingness to compete, the determination to expand were as much a matter of psychology as they were of statute. In the past, too few industrialists and politicians had actively espoused the cause of competition. The attitude that had been allowed to take root had, he believed, played a substantial part in bringing about the country's present economic condition. It had certainly created an economy in which industry was concentrated in fewer hands than in almost any other industrial democracy of comparable size.

In 1972, the last year for which there were complete figures, the 100 largest enterprises in this country produced 41 per cent of Britain's net manufacturing output. In the United States the figure was 32 per cent. In Germany (for which highly successful economy exactly comparable figures were not available) it seemed that industrial concentration was only two-thirds of the United Kingdom level. In individual sectors of UK industry the trend was even more marked. The five largest firms accounted for over 90 per cent of the output in industries so technologically diverse as cigarettes, tractors, man-made fibres, industrial engines, oil, margarine and sugar – where two companies had all but 10 per cent of total production. This trend towards fewer and bigger companies could be measured in two ways, both by the increase in the scale of larger companies and the decline in the ranks of the small enterprise. By both definitions Britain was moving towards fewer and bigger much faster than the rest of the EEC.

Mergers, as contrasted with growth of a single firm, accounted for about half the UK's increased industrial concentration. Too often they had come about for what he, at least, regarded as the wrong reasons. They had been concerned with financial advantage rather than industrial output. Many had failed to bring any industrial benefit to the company and had not even provided the financial rewards that their proponents promised. Recent studies demonstrated that a high proportion of mergers, perhaps 50 per cent, appeared to have brought no benefit even to the merged companies. In many cases the profitability of merged companies appeared lower than it would have been had the company remained in separate ownership.

At a time when Britain's industrial success, even industrial survival, depended upon improving productivity and increasing its share of world trade, it could not afford simply to observe a continuing trend which damaged efficiency. Britain could not see the benefits of competition eroded through mergers that did not produce the stimulus to efficiency that competition provided, he said. It was vital that competition policy should complement the Industrial Strategy. Both were aimed at improving efficiency. Both had to work to this end. These were the reasons why, five years after the enactment of the Fair Trading Act 1973, the government was reviewing monopolies and mergers policy and legislation.

He certainly expected that one result of the review would be a more critical assessment of proposed mergers. Under the present legislation, only about 3 per cent of referable mergers were in fact referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for full investigation. Given the high proportion of mergers that now appeared to have been unsuccessful, this figure appeared very small. The government wanted a stronger policy resulting in fewer but better-thought-out mergers, capable of contributing towards improved productivity and increased efficiency.

Mr Hattersly said mergers policy was only part of competition policy. Monopolies policy also caused concern, and posed problems for the economy. The existence of market power inevitably carried with it the potential for abuse, however seriously many monopolies took the responsibilities that their dominant market position imposed on them. Larger firms could exploit their strong market position. They could threaten to withhold supplies. They could thus impose unreasonable conditions on matters such as the handling of competitors' products, or the demand that a retailer carried a full range of products when only one or two items in that range were in fact needed. He was disturbed by how many small firms found themselves subjected to unreasonable trade practices of this sort.

One outcome of the government's competition policy review might be the possibility for independent investigation of such practices, less time-consuming and less costly than that now carried out by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Or another approach could be to ban certain uncompetitive practices except where these were approved by the Restrictive Practices Court, said Mr Hattersley.

He had said that he wanted a means of intervening to prevent market abuses that was more flexible than the present Monopolies and

Norwegians to invest in Britain

With Alan Williams (second from left), Minister of State for Industry, at last week's Invest in Britain seminar in Oslo were (left to right) Peter Watson, director of the Yorkshire and Humberside Development Association, Anders Ulseth, technical director, Norwegian Talc, and Mike Braddock, also of the development association. At the seminar, Bergen-based Norwegian Talc announced plans for a new 8250 m² factory and office development to be built at Sandtoft airfield, near Scunthorpe. Initially bringing 25 new jobs to the area, the new plant will process talc and dolomite imported through Humberside for the paint and plastics industries, and for agricultural fertilisers.

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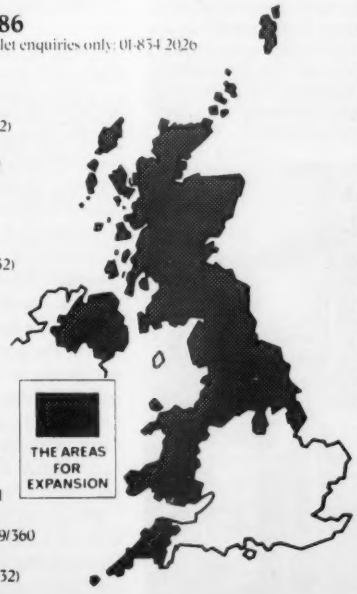

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in association with the Scottish Economic Planning Department and the Welsh Office.

Mergers Commission. One institution that had already been created was the Price Commission. The existence of the investigation procedure encouraged firms to examine intended price increases. It made them look more keenly at the scope for cutting costs. They had to think twice before exploiting any lack of competition in the market. Often, after discussion with the commission, proposed price increases were modified. It was no accident that in the months immediately following the introduction of a new system, both the number and the level of price increases notified to the Price Commission were sharply reduced, clear evidence of the important restraining influence on prices that the commission had.

Government assistance creates jobs in Swansea

Government assistance of £750,000 to Signode Ltd of Fforestfach industrial estate, Swansea will enable a £6.5 million project to set up a plastic-strapping production line to go ahead. It will create 60 much-needed jobs in Swansea and eventually will benefit Britain's balance of payments by up to £11 million per year.

Assistance is being made available under the selective investment scheme (SIS) which was set up a year ago in order to promote major new investment projects such as Signode's. The scheme succeeds the successful accelerated projects scheme under which assistance was given to the International Nickel Company for a £14 million project at Clydach and to the Aluminium Wire and Cable Company for a £1.3 million project in Swansea.

Announcing this assistance to Signode, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said 'This welcome news is a double first for Swansea – the first SIS approval in Wales and the first production line of its kind in the UK. This provides extra jobs now, secures the jobs already there and offers the possibility of expansion later as this new market for plastic strapping expands.'

American investment boosts NI employment

AVX Corporation, whose headquarters are in Great Neck, New York, is to establish a new operation in a 7800 m² government factory at Ballycastle Road, Coleraine, Co Londonderry. It will provide 600 jobs in Northern Ireland, announced Roy Mason, Secretary of State, on 8 March.

The company is the leading manufacturer of ceramic capacitors in the United States and has decided to establish a UK manufacturing operation in order to create a similar marketing position in western Europe. It plans to begin production at Coleraine later this year. The company expects to employ just under 300 people initially, building up to almost 600 at the end of three years. There will be considerable scope for longer-term expansion of the labour force as the company develops to the full the potential which exists for its products in the European market.

Mr Mason said there were currently 30 American-owned manufacturing plants in Northern Ireland. These included such industrial giants as Monsanto, Du Pont, Goodyear and Ford. Together they constituted the largest foreign investment in the province and provided about one job in 12 in the manufacturing sector, in all about 18 000 jobs. Since 1960 investment by American companies had amounted to some £400 million, excluding AVX, calculated at 1976 prices.

Company expands at Hebburn

Drillturn Engineering Ltd has recently taken occupation of advance factory terrace unit premises of about 450 m² built by the English Industrial Estates Corporation for the Department of Industry at Victoria Road, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear.

Drillturn Engineering is engaged in precision and general engineering and requires the larger premises to expand production. It expects to employ an additional 15 people as production is built up over the next year or two.

Engineering students work for Lansing Bagnall

Robin Butler, one of the first students to participate in an integrated sandwich course scheme involving Lansing Bagnall, manufacturers of fork-lift trucks, and the University of Aston in Birmingham, carrying out testing procedures on a fork-lift truck. The Engineering Industries Training Board has allocated a sum of £140,000 to the scheme, under which up to 20 specially selected students will be sponsored by Lansing Bagnall to undertake a four-year sandwich course at the university. The students will work part-time at Lansing Bagnall while studying for their degrees and will be paid by the company. They will also be eligible to obtain local authority grants to cover fees and maintenance. This year four students are pioneering the course, which involves the study of modern languages and management skills.

Substantial increase in living standards expected

This year there will be a real increase in living standards, Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, told the Association of British Travel Agents in London on 8 March. The improvement would not be spectacular, but it would be substantial. And more important it would be sustained.

In 1974, 1975, and 1976 the real disposable personal income at 1970 prices was about £740 per head in Great Britain. Last year it actually fell in what was certainly a hard year. But it was the year in which the foundation of economic recovery was built. Wage settlements were moderate. Gradually inflation came under control. The pound increased in value and continued to push upwards. The balance of payments moved towards surplus. The investment recovery strengthened.

As a result of that success everyone would be more propsperous this year. The rise in real personal disposable income would more than cancel out last year's fall.

This year's increase in prosperity was a result of last year's willingness to face the hard facts about economic conditions, Mr Hattersley added. But even that achievement would be hardly worth celebrating if it turned out to be temporary, and was swept away in 1979 by another outbreak of rising inflation or falling investment. Fortunately despite some of the forecasts, not all of them made objectively, there was every reason to believe that the recovery was real. Inflation would remain in single figures through this year and into 1979. There were signs of a substantial upturn in investment.

Limit put on electricity price increases

During the next year the government did not expect the rise in electricity prices to be greater than the cost of living generally, Robert Maclennan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, told a meeting of the South Western Electricity Consultative Council in Plymouth on 9 March.

With increasing costs of fuel, electricity prices were bound to rise in 1978 but the success of the government's inflation policies was not going to be undermined by the pricing policies of the area boards. Householders' fuel bills were bound to remain a significant element of domestic expenditure, but the clear expectation was that this burden need not become a crushing one

Electricity consultative councils could work with their electricity boards in various ways to minimise the impact of price increases. In the first place councils should take a very critical look at price increases proposed by electricity boards, and to facilitate this really vital element of their work Mr Maclennan tried to appoint members who would have the exper-

Varley welcomes NW strategy initiative

The importance which the government attaches to a prosperous and competitive UK manufacturing industry was spelled out by Secretary of State for Industry Eric Varley at a meeting in Manchester on 6 March to launch a campaign in support of the Industrial Strategy in the north west region (see 'Trade and Industry' 10 March, page 506). Wilfred Smith of the department's north-west regional office reports on the meeting.

Mr Varley emphasised that the aims of the strategey based essentially on the tripartite pooling of ideas at sectoral level are to create the economic climate in which industry can thrive and to help companies to identify, and remove, those constraints which are depressing performance, and to establish realistic objectives for improving home and overseas market shares. He said that most of the first round of recommendations from the sector working parties (representing management, unions and government) were for action by government which had responded on a number of fronts.

In both the 1976 and 1977 budgets the government had demonstrated its will to provide industry with greater stability and increased incentives. New schemes of industrial financial help had been introduced tailored to specific needs or aimed at bringing forward investment and innovation. The north west had benefited from these schemes as well as from its status as an assisted area – in 1977 403 projects costing in total £243 million had been approved for assistance under sections 7 and 8 of the Industry Act.

He went on to say that priority was being given to industry across the whole range of the government's activities – in planning procedures, in education, in manpower training. Government had taken a resolute stand in Brussels on the multi-fibre agreement which had given the Lancashire textile industry a measure of protection for the next five years which it has not had before. The two areas of financial stability and low inflation were the most critical for a strong industrial economy, and he believed that government had made very real progress on both these fronts.

He concluded by welcoming the initiative taken by the advisory 'action group' in the north west to spread the basic message of the strategy throughout industry at plant level in the region. He stressed that it was at plant level where the success of the strategy would be decided, for the task confronting Britain was nothing less than to bring about a major turnaround in the performance of manufacturing industry and to remedy structural weaknesses.

North-west action group

Action group chairman John Parkes described how in 1976 the Department of Industry, encouraged by the regional Industrial Development Board, had asked various regional bodies, including such as the Planning Council, the Regional TUC, Regional CBI, chambers of commerce, the North West Industrial Development Association, the National Enterprise Board and representatives from local authorities, to join together in an 'action group'. Its task was to consider how the Industrial Strategy could be developed in the region, and to examine what were the problems, especially any peculiar to the north west, which stood in the way of realising its objectives.

The department had visited nearly 200 firms in the region in key sectors so as to find out at first hand what the problems were. He explained that these direct approaches had brought confirmation of nationwide problems – low return on investment, taxation and the need for incentives, low productivity and legislative burdens. He said that the brochure 'Action for your Prosperity' being launched spelled out a simple but basic message pointing at the need for better communications, more discussion and effective dialogue within companies, and between companies and those who could help.

Support from NEDC

Adding his support to the work of the action group, Bernard Asher, acting Director General of NEDC, said that while many of the problems identified by the action group were of national significance and could only be remedied at a national level, there was a number of others on which action was possible on a local basis in a region such as the north west.

Local authorities could ensure that an environment favourable to industrial prosperity existed. Government schemes of assistance for industry could be effectively publicised. Assistance could be given to small firms, and education could be made more relevant to the needs of industry. Industry could be encouraged to purchase from home suppliers, and local bodies could ensure that central government was kept well-informed on important issues affecting industry.

tise to enable councils to get to grips with such matters.

He believed that the creation of the new national Electricity Consumers' Council would greatly strengthen the work that area councils did by spearheading their policy recommendations and adding an extra impetus of research and liaison with other national consumer bodies, that had not been possible in the past.

Scottish electricity price to be investigated

Increases in charges proposed last month by the South of Scotland Electricity Board are to be investigated by the Price Commission. The board wants to increase electricity tariffs by amounts which taken together with fuel clauses in demand tariffs would produce an overall increase of 9.9 per cent, connection charges for new domestic supplies would increase by 12.5 per cent and various special charges by around 11 per cent.

The effect of the commission's decision to investigate is that the increases proposed may not be implemented during the period of the investigation which must be completed by 12 June. However, the commission is able to allow interim increases, and is obliged to do so to the extent to which the safeguard provisions operate.

Commission does not endorse price increases – Williams

Speaking in London on 6 March, chairman of the Price Commission Charles Williams said it was wrong and indefensible to suggest that any price increase had been endorsed by the Price Commission.

He explained, 'You will often see in the press that the Price Commission has 'approved' this or that increase. '2p on Beer' says the headline with the story running underneath saying that the commission has, in effect, given its full endorsement to that extra 2p'.

He emphasised that the Price Commission did not approve price increases. All that the legislation allowed the commission to do was to look closely at an individual price increase and recommend a restriction if it thought it necessary and if the company was not protected by the safeguards arrangements spelt out in section 9 of the Price Commission Act 1977. 'It is a serious mis-statement of the legal position to suggest that just because the commission has not chosen to intervene this is in some way a special endorsement.'

Mr Williams said it was even more serious that some firms seemed to be implying to their customers that because the notification had been passed by the commission, this meant that the commission had endorsed the increase. In effect, firms appeared to be invoking official support for increases which they were trying to negotiate with their customers. 'Not only is this practice a distortion of the legal position but also it is deceitful and grossly misleading to the customer.'

Every major company had to notify the commission of its proposed increases 28 days before they were implemented, he said, and during that period the commission had to decide whether to hold one of its three-month investigations to look into the increases in depth. 'We receive 140 or more notifications a week, and we can, in practical terms,

hope to launch only 40 or so investigations a year. So obviously we can only look in any detail at relatively few applications for increases. It doesn't mean that we are necessarily happy about all the rest.'

Tea prices monitored

Tea prices in the shops are to be monitored to see if they settle down at the Price Commission's recommended level of 21 or 22p per quarter, said Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 6 March. This follows the reductions of 2p per quarter announced on 3 March by the major blenders.

Mr Hattersley added that he would accordingly extend the consultation period by two weeks to 21 March before deciding whether a statutory order to control tea prices was necessary.

OFT's record year – Borrie

Consumer complaints reported to the Office of Fair Trading last year were up by 26 per cent (see the categories below) and there was a new record in the number of major mergers and takeover bids examined. The figures, published in the 1977 annual report of Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, on 9 March, also include the highest ever figure for written promises of future good behaviour obtained from unfair traders and a sharp rise in the registration of restrictive trading agreements covering the supply of goods.

Replying to those who protest that new laws to protect the consumer impose extra cost and administrative burdens on trade and industry, Mr Borrie said he recognised the force of the argument and saw the advantages of a period of stabilisation and appraisal but added that it was worth pausing to consider why these laws had been thought necessary.

'The need for consumer protection measures often arises only because some parts of trade and industry have been engaging in unfair practices.' He pointed out that it might only need half a dozen firms to start using unfair trading practices and their business competitors were put at a trading disadvantage unless they too adopted similar methods.

Mr Borrie urged that the increased costs of new legislation should be set against the benefits which such laws brought to the community.

The 'Annual Report of the Director General of Fair Trading 1977', is published by HMSO, price £1.65.

Way paved for metrication of weighed-out foodstuffs

The way has been paved for metrication of most weighed-out foods by a weights and measures order laid on 9 March for the approval of parliament. It had originally been proposed in the report on metrication made to parliament in April 1977 that the change should be made in 1980, but it is now to be delayed until 1981.

The draft order follows extensive consultations and agreement with manufacturers, consumers, traders and the weighing-machine industry and is intended to give over three years to plan for a smooth transition. Its operation in different weighed-out food sectors will be phased over the second half of 1981. Meat, poultry and fish will be the first sector to change by 30 June of that year, followed by all other weighed-out foods by 30 September, with the exception of fruit and vegetables which would not change until 31 December.

Provision is made in the order for a seller who can show that he had taken all reasonable steps to obtain metric equipment before the cut-off date but that the equipment had not been supplied to him within the time required. The Metrication Board will be preparing, nearer the time of operation of the order, extensive information for consumers and traders to ensure a smooth and well-understood transition.

Categories with the highest increase in complaints to OFT

	No of complaints		
	1976-77	1975-76	Complaints per £m spent (1976-77)
Furniture	42 460	32 142	46.0
Clothing	48 188	41 795	9.1
Footwear	29 400	22 835	29 7
Watches, clocks and jewellery	18 959	12 385	35.8
Motor vehicles	57 544	44 438	22.4
Motor vehicles accessories	16 446	9 925	27.6
Motor vehicle servicing	14 408	9 576	15.1
Inadequate offer of redress	87 469	67 694	
Lack of consumer information	22 586	12 375	

Convictions and fines under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968

	No of convictions		Total fines	
	1976	1977	1976	1977
			£	£
Section 1: misdescription				
Motor vehicles and accessories	473	613	95 505	128 719
Food and drink	51	61	3 230	7 120
Soap, detergents and toilet requisites	2	2	175	375
Solid and liquid fuels	34	20	3 000	2 410
Clothing and textiles	34	44	2 645	5 620
Others	196	206	23 354	26 885
Total	790	946	127 909	171 129

Startling results from home accidents probe

John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, demonstrated how to extinguish a chip-pan fire with a fire blanket when he opened an exhibition on safety at the London Building Centre on 8 March. A Home Office survey found that three in 10 of 55 000 home fires started with fat-pans, although where a publicity campaign was conducted the incidence went down by a third. Mr Fraser said that for the past year his department's home accident surveillance scheme had been collecting information from 20 hospitals throughout England and Wales and storing data centrally in a government computer. What had emerged was startling. About a third of all home accidents related to features of the home, such as stairs, windows and doors, rather than to consumer products. Equally important was that, where a product caused injury, the design of the house played a large part in the accident. In fact, what people kept at home was more or less dangerous according to where it was kept. For instance, in a study of child poisoning from household products nearly half the accidents occurred when the substance was in its normal place of storage. The scheme had shown that 8000 of the 66 500 home accidents had occurred on stairs and over 3500 with doors. Some 1200 accidents occurred involving steps and ladders, let alone the paraphernalia of the home handy-man.

Invisible service earnings reach new peak

Invisible earnings from Britain's service industries reached a new peak of £10,729 million in 1977, 15 per cent higher than in 1976. The outstanding features were the growth in travel receipts which improved over 30 per cent to £2,129 million, the rise in earnings from construction work overseas, and further growth in insurance and banking services.

Gross private invisible earnings, including interest, profits and dividends, and transfers, increased 10 per cent in 1977 to a new record level of £14,670 million. However, invisible payments increased sharply, largely because of the substantial profits earned for the first time

Health and Safety Executive Publications

The 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act gave the Health and Safety Commission responsibility for keeping some 25 million people informed of guidelines and regulations for their health and safety in places of work. The Commission has undertaken progressively to revise, standardise and extend the existing regulations and recommended practices. HSC/HSE publications reflect the major programme of research, inspection and consultation which is in hand.

Priced publications are obtainable only from HMSO or through booksellers. Guidance Notes are not listed here but these are available from HMSO, price 30p each. Some general leaflets, advice and information are available free of charge from HSE Area Offices or by post from the General Enquiry Point, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF (Tel. 01-229 3456 ext 734).

Annual Reports

Health and Safety : Commission Report 1974–76 (£2) ISBN 011 883011 2
Health and Safety : Industry and Services 1975 (£2) ISBN 011 881112 6
Health and Safety : Mines and Quarries 1976 (£2) ISBN 011 883010 4
Health and Safety : Research 1976 (£1.75) ISBN 011 883012 0
Health and Safety : Statistics 1975 (£1.75) ISBN 011 883008 2
Industrial Air Pollution 1975 (£2) ISBN 011 88022 3
Mines and Quarries District Reports 1976 (£1.50 each)
Health and Safety : Agriculture 1976 (£1.00) ISBN 011 883021 X
Health and Safety : Nuclear Establishments 1975–76 (£1.15) ISBN 011 883018 X

Advisory Committee Reports and reports of special investigations etc.

The Flixborough Disaster (£2.50) ISBN 011 361075 0
The explosion at Laporte Industries Ltd April 1975 (£1.25) ISBN 011 880333 6
The explosion at Houghton Main Colliery June 1975 (£1) ISBN 011 880328 X
The explosion at Appleby-Frodingham steelworks, Scunthorpe. November 1975 (£4) ISBN 011 88033 4
The explosion at the Dow Chemical Factory, Kings Lynn. June 1976 (£1) ISBN 011 883003 1
A survey of respiratory disease in the Pottery Industry (35p) ISBN 011 880346 8
Success and failure in accident prevention (80p) ISBN 011 880330 1
Final Report of the Advisory Committee on Falsework (£2) ISBN 011 880347 6
First Report of the National Committee on steep seam working in British coal mines (60p) ISBN 011 410248 1
Advisory committee on Major Hazards : First Report (£1) ISBN 011 880884 2
Selected written evidence submitted to the Advisory Committee on Asbestos 1976/77 (£5) ISBN 011 883004 X
Asbestos Health Hazards and Precautions, Interim statement (10p) ISBN 011 881114 2
Safe Manriding in Mines Parts 1A and 1B (£5) ISBN 011 880491 X
Digest of Pneumoconiosis 1975 (£2) ISBN 011 882006 0
Some aspects of the safety of nuclear installations in Great Britain (Replies to questions submitted by the Secretary of State for Energy to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate in October 1976) (£1) ISBN 011 8830015

Health and Safety at Work Series booklets

3 Safety Devices for Hand and Foot Operated Presses (0 11 880862 1) (30p)
4 Safety in the use of Abrasive Wheels (0 11 880866 4) (65p)
5 Cloakroom Accommodation and Washing Facilities (0 11 880850 8) (45p)
6A Safety in Construction Work: General Site Safety Practice *(Reprinting)* (0 11 360120 4)
6B Safety in Construction Work: Roofing 1974 (0 11 880870 2) (16p)
6C Safety in Construction Work: Excavations (0 11 360101 8) *(Reprinting)*
6D Safety in Construction Work: Scaffolding (11 881452 4) (30p)
6E Safety in Construction Work: Demolition (11 360848 9) (25p)
11 Guarding of Hand-fed Platen Machines (0 11 880873 7) (18p)
12 Safety at Drop-Forging Hammers (0 11 880855 9) (18p)
14 Safety in the use of Mechanical Power Presses (0 11 880867 2) (75p)
17 Improving the Foundry Environment 1974 (0 11 360849 7) (32p)
18 Industrial Dermatitis: Precautionary Measures (0 11 880877 X) *(Reprinting)*
20 Drilling Machines: Guarding of Spindles and Attachments 1974 (0 11 880865 6) (35p)
22 Dust Explosions in Factories (0 11 880851 6) (30p)
23 Hours of Employment of Women and Young Persons (0 11 880876 1) (25p)
24 Electrical Limit Switches and their Applications (0 11 880840 1) (25p)
25 Noise and the Worker (0 11 880845 1) (22p)
27 Precautions in the use of Nitrate Salt Baths (0 11 880880 X) (25p)
29 Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: Causes and Prevention (11 360838 1) *(Reprinting)*
30 Storage of Liquified Petroleum at Gas Factories (0 11 880882 6) (45p)
31 Safety in Electrical Testing (0 11 880843 5) (38p)
32 Repair of Drums and Small Tanks (0 11 880852 4) (25p)
33 Safety in the use of Guillotines and Shears (0 11 880861 3) (30p)
34 Guide to the use of Flame Arresters and Explosion Reliefs *(Reprinting)*
35 Basic Rules for Safety and Health at Work (0 11 880857 5) (20p)
36 First Aid in Factories (0 11 880842 7) (25p)
40 Means of Escape in case of Fire in Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (0 11 880860 5) (20p)
41 Safety in the use of Woodworking Machines (0 11 880837 0) (£1)
42 Guarding of Cutters of Horizontal Milling Machines (0 11 880871 0) (30p)
44 Asbestos: Health Precautions in Industry 1974 (0 11 880879 6) (25p)
45 Seats for Workers in Factories, Offices and Shops (0 11 880883 4) (55p)
46 Evaporating and Other Ovens (0 11 880872 9) (55p)
47 Safety in the Stacking of Materials (0 11 880839 7) (40p)
48 First Aid in Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (0 11 883132 1) (25p)
49A Safety in the Cotton and Allied Fibres Industry. Opening Processes (0 11 360851 9) (25p)
49B Safety in the Cotton and Allied Fibres Industry. Card-room Processes (0 11 360854 3) (40p)
49C Safety in the Cotton and Allied Fibres Industry. Spinning, winding and sizing (0 11 360858 6) (45p)
49D Safety in the Cotton and Allied Fibres Industry. Fabric Production *(in prep.)*
50 Welding and Flame Cutting using Compressed Gases *(in prep.)*

* Health and Safety Commission leaflets

HSC 1 Some legal aspects and how they will affect you
HSC 2 The Act outlined
HSC 3 Advice to employers
HSC 4 Advice to the self-employed
HSC 5 Advice to employees
HSC 6 Employers' policy statements
HSC 7 Regulations, codes of practice guidance literature
HSC 8 Safety Committees guidance to employers whose employees are not members of recognised independent trade unions

* Health and Safety Executive leaflets

HSE 1 After Flixborough . . . 10 vital questions for industry
HSE 3 An introduction to the HSC and HSE
HSE 4 Short guide to the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969
HSE 5 An introduction to the Employment Medical Advisory Service

* Agricultural Safety leaflets

AS1 A short guide to the 1974 Act
AS2 Tractor safety cabs
AS3 Bulls
AS4 Mushroom worker's lung *(in prep.)*
AS5 Farmer's lung *(in prep.)*
AS6 Crop spraying
AS7 Guns *(in prep.)*
AS8 Noise
AS10 Children
AS21 First aid in agriculture

* EMAS leaflets

MS(A)1 Lead and you
MS(A)3 Asbestos and you
MS(A)4 Study of asbestos workers
MS(A)5 The health of workers engaged in antimony oxide
MS(A)6 Vinyl chloride and you
MS(B)1 Ulceration of the skin and inside the nose caused by chrome
MS(B)3 Anthrax
MS(B)4 Effects on the skin of pitch and tar
MS(B)5 Skin cancer caused by oil
MS(B)6 Occupational industrial dermatitis
MS(B)7 Poisoning by pesticides

* *Free of charge*

by foreign oil companies in the North Sea. This resulted in a decline in the net private sector balance of over £400 million to produce a net surplus of £4,166 million in 1977 compared with £4,604 million in 1976.

There was also a further increase in the government deficit with the result that total net invisibles, both public and private sector, came to £1,577 million in 1977, compared with £2,403 million in 1976.

Accounts survey published

A comprehensive summary of accounting requirements and an analysis of current financial reporting methods is provided in the new annual edition of the 'Survey of Published Accounts 1977' published on 9 March at £9.95 by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

An outline of the statutory requirements and accounting standards on each subject is followed by an analysis of reporting methods adopted by 300 of the largest UK industrial companies with numerous actual examples of good practice taken from published reports. Enlarged and completely updated, the survey makes detailed reference to the interim recommendations of the accounting standards committee on inflation accounting (the Hyde guidelines) and to the two new statements of standard accounting practice on depreciation and research and development.

A summary of developments during the year on inflation accounting is accompanied by a detailed analysis of the way in which companies have been responding to the need for accounts adjusted for inflation during the interim period leading to the Hyde guidelines. Reference is made to the likely influences on future statutory reporting requirements of EEC directives and of the proposals in the government's consultative document on 'The Future of Company Reports' published in 1977.

Appeal on Skytrain variations dismissed

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, has dismissed an appeal by British Airways Board against the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to grant Laker Airways' applications to vary its 'Skytrain' licence to permit the sale anywhere in the world of vouchers which are exchangeable for 'Skytrain' tickets and to delete certain conditions relating to capacity and frequency.

Trials to prove airports helicopter link

A series of proving trials over the route to be taken by the proposed Heathrow and Gatwick helicopter link is to be carried out by the British Airports Authority and British Airways Helicopters.

Using a Sikorsky S-61N helicopter, the type which would be used on the route, there will be three return flights between Gatwick and Heathrow. Flight time will be about 12 minutes. Noise measurements will be taken by authority staff at different points along the route and environmental health officers of the local authorities concerned have been invited to be present at these sites.

High-speed trains for east coast

British Rail, Eastern and Scottish regions, annnounced on 6 March that six Inter-City 125 trains would be introduced into service in accelerated timings on the east coast main line, linking London (King's Cross), Newcastle and Edinburgh, on 8 May. The decision means that 12 services, six northbound and six southbound – including two London-Newcastle services in each direction – will be operated by high-speed trains.

British Rail had hoped to introduce eight trains, covering 16 services, but as two of the trains will not be completely ready for service their introduction will be delayed until a few weeks after 8 May.

BL Cars' market share improved

New car sales by BL Cars distributors and dealers in February reached 34 194, representing 24.9 per cent of the total new car market in Britain, it was announced on 9 March. The much improved supply of cars from the Austin and Morris model ranges, creating excellent stocks with the company's sales network, is the main reason for BL Cars' improved market share, following January's penetration figure of 21.3 per cent.

The Mini becomes the second-best selling car in Britain for the month, whilst the Marina and Allegro ranges take fourth and fifth places respectively. 'Superdeal', which began at the beginning of February and continues to the end of March, is expected to further boost BL Cars' market share next month.

Official appointments

North Eastern Electricity Consultative Council: Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Jonathan Bradshaw as chairman of the North Eastern Electricity Consultative Council from 1 March 1978 to 28 February 1981, and Florence Otterson as deputy chairman of the council until 28 February 1981.

Electricity Consumers' Council: Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed Maurice Vogel and Ruth Lister as members of the Electricity Consumers' Council until 31 December 1980.

Insurance Companies Act 1974: authorisations and revocations

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were issued by the Secretary of State for Trade under section 3(1) of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 January to 28 February 1978.

Name of insurer and registered office or address in GB	Country of incorporation if outside GB	Date of authorisation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was issued
Compagnie d'Assurances Maritimes, Aeriennes et Terrestres, Societe Anonyme c/o de Paula Turner Lake and Co Imperial House Dominion Street London EC2	France	14.2.78	1, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17
Ocaso SA Seguros y Reaseguros Leadenhall Buildings 1 Leadenhall Street London EC3	Spain	9.2.78	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Vanbrugh Pensions Ltd 142 Holborn Bars London EC1N 2NH	—	13.1.78	OLT

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were revoked by the Secretary of State for Trade under section 9 of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 January to 28 February 1978.

Name of insurer and registered office or address in GB	Country of incorporation if outside GB	Date of revocation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was revoked
Associated Jewellers Ltd Hunters Road Birmingham 19	—	28.2.78	7, 8, 9
Les Assures Reunis Societe Anonyme d'Assurances – Risques Divers 83 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HW	Belgium	28.2.78	1, 2, 14, 15, 16, 17
DAS Legal Expenses Insurance Company Ltd Phoenix House 4-5 King William Street London EC4P 4HR	—	28.2.78	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
The General Insurance Company of Cyprus (UK) Ltd 23-24 Margaret Street London W1	—	28.2.78	OLT
Mid-Southern Hospital Contributory Association 29 Castle Street Reading Berkshire RG1 7SL	—	28.2.78	1, 2, 14, 15, 16, 17
Stevedores Insurance Services Company Ltd c/o Duncan Glass and Co Castle Chambers (6th Floor) 43 Castle Street Liverpool L2 9TL	—	28.2.78	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15

Classes of business

OLT	Ordinary long-term insurance business
IND	Industrial assurance business
1	Accident insurance business
2	Sickness insurance business

3 Land vehicles insurance business
4 Railway rolling stock insurance business
5 Aircraft insurance business
6 Ships insurance business
7 Goods in transit insurance business
8 Fire and natural forces insurance business
9 Damage to property insurance business
10 Motor vehicle liability insurance business
11 Aircraft liability insurance business
12 Liability for ships insurance business
13 General liability insurance business
14 Credit insurance business
15 Suretyship insurance business
16 Miscellaneous financial loss insurance business
17 Legal expenses insurance business

Giant cranes aid quick steel turnround

Three giant Monobox cranes cover the entire cash and carry steel stockholding warehouse of D and F Steels Ltd of Leeds. Only 200 m from the end of the M1 motorway at Stourton, the £4 million new complex consists of a three span building totalling 90 m wide and 100 m long, with rail and road access right into the heart of the covered storage area. Modern technology throughout the plant ensures fast turnround of customers' road transport and up-to-the-minute stock recording by computerised visual read-out terminals in the offices.

Merger proposals cleared

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973. Comet Radiovision Services Ltd and Henry Wigfall and Son Ltd.

Patents endorsed 'licences of right'

Under section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'licences of right' on the dates specified:

27 February 1978

1293305 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Tractor link connection
1312598 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Power-assisted steering mechanism for automotive vehicles
1329808 Ford Motor Co Ltd
A motor vehicle with a mechanically operable safety belt
1334830 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Multiple ratio power transmission mechanism with an infinitely variable overdrive range
1335524 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Combustion chamber for gas turbine engine
1341534 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Bearing members of high-temperature applications
1344439 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Compartment door latch mechanism
1347931 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Infinitely variable overdrive transmission mechanism
1356543 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Throttle valve actuator for an automatic vehicle transmission having engine back pressure compensation
1373266 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Compound fluid pressure actuator for friction torque couplings
1373267 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Venturi carburettor
1386576 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Tractor hydraulic lift system
1405062 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Rear suspension system for a motor vehicle
1409142 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Internal combustion engine
1409228 Ford Motor Co Ltd
A synchromesh device for the reverse gear of a motor vehicle gearbox
1423797 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Vehicle non-reversible odometer
1426164 Ford Motor Co Ltd
A motor vehicle having an inflatable safety device
1430529 Ford Motor Co Ltd
A thrust bearing assembly
1431536 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Power steering device
1431626 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Bearing assembly
1435042 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Valve assembly suitable for use as a draincock in a radiator of a motor vehicle
1437575 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Reinforced door panel construction
1454194 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Rotor assembly for a dynamoelectric machine
1454195 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Method of manufacture of a dynamoelectric machine flux producing core
1454358 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Lead-acid battery test method
1461328 Ford Motor Co Ltd
A synchromesh device for the reverse gear of a motor vehicle gearbox
1309801 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Improvements in and relating to cameras having automatic shutter electronic exposure control means
1468701 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Still cameras
1468884 Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft
Still camera
1299356 EMI Ltd
Improvements relating to pressure fluid units
1459188 EMI Ltd
Apparatus for producing pseudo quadraphonic signals from stereo signals

1 March 1978

987670 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Motor vehicle independent suspension
1013322 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Motor vehicle window
1029847 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Synchromesh gear boxes
1042237 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Method and apparatus for pleating deformable material
1058133 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Motor vehicle window
1080664 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Brake, particularly for use in automatic transmissions
1112056 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Tractor having PTO guard
1128797 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Three part Bowden cable
1160879 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Safety panel
1166575 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Circuit and component thereof for use in electrodeposition of organic coatings
1169820 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Hydrodynamic torque converter
1166948 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Motor vehicle brakes
1178342 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Guide means for vehicle windows
1180882 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Contour data recording system
1181694 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Coating process
1182553 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Gas turbine regenerator seal
1185572 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Tractor-mounted backhoe
1191011 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Coating process involving radiation curing of coating
1217634 Ford Motor Co Ltd
A process for manufacturing a porous sheet material
1217635 Ford Motor Co Ltd
A process for coating an interlaced sheet material
1227415 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Tractor hydraulic lift control system
1236681 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Control system for motor vehicle type gas turbine engine
1238814 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Gearbox particularly for a motor vehicle
1244552 Ford Motor Co Ltd
A process for cutting a ribbon of glass
1249787 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Estate car rear seat
1260956 Ford Motor Co Ltd
Interlaced sheet material
1360361 The Firestone Tire and Rubber Co
Buckle
1360362 The Firestone Tire and Rubber Co
Buckle
1264503 Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft
A circuit for windscreen wiper and washer equipment in a motor vehicle
1277185 Francis Bernard Dorer
Friction disc
1281506 Louverdrape Vertical Blinds Ltd
Internal corner piece adapter for a window frame
1429232 Joseph Schiff
Envelope labelling machine
1439335 Richard Holdsworth Conversions Ltd
Improvements in or relating to convertible seat structures for vehicles such as caravans and motor caravans
1439900 Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen
Shutter-type fluid distributor
1440511 Bendix Westinghouse Ltd
Brake actuators
1455750 Ateliers J. Hanrez, Societe Anonyme
Heat generator of the combustion product condensation type and process for heating a heat-carrying fluid
1467798 EMI Ltd
Improvements relating to image intensifier arrangements
1461778 BBC Brown Boveri and Co Ltd
A copper-hardened permanent-magnet alloy

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which the claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on patents form 45 within two months after the date of endorsement. I. J. G. Davis, Comptroller

Government sales

4-6 April 1978 – Vehicles

Location
Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot, Ruddington, Notts

Auctioneers
Walker Walton and Hanson (Dept L), Byard Lane, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham (0602 54272)

Commercial vehicles including heavy duty trucks and tractors by AEC and Leyland, Bedford trucks, trailers and Morris trucks with welding equipment. Saloons, estate cars, minibuses, light vans and Land Rovers. Catalogue price 40p, postage 15p.

5 April 1978 – Furniture

Location
Garrison Theatre, Tidworth, Hants

Auctioneers
Austin and Wyatt (Dept. L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants (0329 234211)

The sale consists mainly of small or single item lots of furniture. Catalogue price 20p, postage 10p.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale.

World Maritime Day today

Today, 17 March, is the first World Maritime Day. Its purpose is to draw attention to the safety, welfare and training of seafarers. Instituted by Imco, the United Nations maritime agency in London, it is intended that the day will be recognised by all 104 member states. The Department of Trade, which provides the UK delegation to Imco, has arranged a number of events to mark the occasion. Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, points to the special significance that World Maritime Day has for Britain.

Today, perhaps as never before, shipping is Britain's economic life-line. Virtually half our food, three-quarters of the raw materials for our industry and most of our exports are carried by sea.

Do we not, however, take much too easily for granted our dependence on shipping and our indebtedness to those who sail the fleets?

Since the days of the earliest merchant adventurers and explorers a great deal has been accomplished to make shipping safer and more comfortable. But the risks and the hardships, an integral part of working at sea and which can never be eliminated, remain – as the fishing vessel losses, during the recent storms around our coasts, so tragically illustrate.

The first World Maritime Day – it is now to be an annual event – gives those of us who are land-based the chance to acknowledge this debt.

As it implies, World Maritime Day is an international occasion, organised by the United Nations maritime agency (Imco) and it is being celebrated by countries throughout the world; but, for us in Britain, with one of the world's largest maritime fleets, it must have a special significance.

It is also the twentieth anniversary of the creation, by the United Nations, of Imco itself. Before 1958, Britain traditionally took the lead in calling international conferences on marine safety and the prevention of pollution from ships, and also acted as a depositary for the various conventions that resulted.

So it was appropriate that, when Imco took over this work, it should be based in London and last year we announced plans to build the organisation a new London headquarters for occupation by late 1981. This reflects the strength of our continuing commitment to the aims and the endeavours of this extremely important UN agency.

An essential part of the work of Imco is designed to bring international uniformity to the regulations governing shipping. This is vitally important to preserving the freedom of shipping from a nightmare of conflicting requirements, and also to ensure that safety and pollution practices progressively seek to attain the highest rather than to adopt the lowest international standards. The successful conclusion of the recent conference on tanker safety and pollution prevention was an example of the real progress Imco is making towards creating a consensus on raising world shipping standards; and I am hopeful that another key conference, beginning this June, will have a similar impact in the field of the training and certification of seamen.

World Maritime Day, with its emphasis on the importance of shipping to the world economy and the hardships and dangers of a seamen's job, is a reminder that the sea can never be completely tamed. But it is a reminder, too, of something more hopeful: the capacity for co-operation of people from more than a hundred different nations who, through Imco, are striving to make the world's shipping safer, and its seas cleaner.

Minister goes to nautical college

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, is today visiting the College of Nautical Studies, Warsash, as part of the United Kingdom's celebration of World Maritime Day.

The college, which has an international reputation, provides a wide range of nautical courses from fire-fighting and boatwork to electronics and management.

While at the college, Mr Davis is to meet the principal, Captain Phelan, and the students. He is to be shown over the college, seeing the nocturnal ship's simulator, the training ship *Somerset* and an experimental enclosed lifeboat recently approved by the Department of Trade.

Seafarers' vital world-wide role

A message from Mr C. P. Srivastava Secretary-General of Imco

On the occasion of the celebration of the first World Maritime Day, I extend, on behalf of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (Imco), the maritime agency of the United Nations, our cordial and warm greetings and good wishes to all persons throughout the world who are engaged in maritime activities. This year, Imco wishes to address in particular the seafarers of the world on whom our thoughts are concentrated today.

Imco and its member governments are keenly aware of the tremendous physical and mental efforts which you exert, the great perils of the oceans which you brave, and the sacrifices which you willingly make in order to operate such a vast variety of ships with safety and efficiency and thus promote the trade and commerce of the world. You play a vital role in promoting world-wide co-operation, friendship and peace.

Twentieth anniversary

Today, 17 March, marks the twentieth anniversary of the day, in 1958, when the convention establishing Imco was accepted by the number of governments required to bring the convention into force and the organisation into being. Imco began its work in January 1959, dedicated to the promotion of the highest practicable international standards of maritime safety in the design, construction, equipment and manning of ships, in the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships, in the establishment and development of procedures to facilitate the speedy flow of maritime traffic and the solution of legal and administrative disputes which arise in connection with shipping and related maritime operations. Now, almost 20 years later, Imco is recognised the world over as the one body competent, able and available to perform these functions.

International standards

Today Imco promotes these objectives not only by the adoption, review and progressive updating of international standards and procedures, but also by ensuring, through its technical co-operation programme, that all governments, maritime authorities and shipping concerns are in a position to implement effectively existing standards and able to contribute towards the development of those which may be needed in the future.

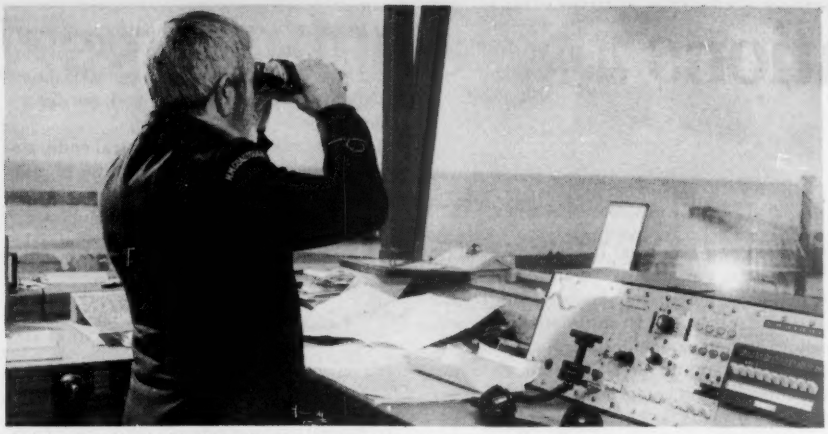
It is the hope of our organisation and its member governments that the development, acceptance and implementation of these standards and procedures on a world-wide basis will contribute to greater safety for you at sea, more efficiency in your operations and a cleaner marine environment.

We know that the implementation of the standards and procedures adopted by governments depends in large measure on the efforts of governmental authorities responsible for maritime matters and, above all, on the devotion and exertions of those who work on or in connection with ships. We recognise and deeply appreciate the willingness and dedication with which you have applied these standards, sometimes in most trying circumstances. We are convinced that we can rely on you in the future for the same degree of co-operation and service.

As a sincere recognition of your devotion to seafaring and as a tribute to your services to the world community, the assembly of Imco took the decision to dedicate the first World Maritime Day to you, the seafarers of the world.

Imco today pays grateful homage to you and pledges that the organisation shall continue to strive ceaselessly for securing the highest practicable standards for maritime safety and for the protection of marine environment with a view to promoting your welfare.

I wish you all, wherever you may be, good luck and happy and safe sailing.



Celebrating World Maritime Day, coastguard stations around Britain's coast are throwing open their doors today, as always to those in pursuit of advice on safety at sea and on the sea shore, but also to those who are merely curious. Today's coastguard is a highly-trained man using sophisticated super-modern equipment, the station a nerve centre co-ordinating search and rescue operations involving over 10 other services – such as lifeboats, helicopters, merchant ships, aircraft and police – in an area up to 1000 miles out to sea.

Coastguards rescue over 7000 people

A total of 7433 people were rescued on an around the coasts of Britain in 1977 according to the annual incident statistics of HM Coastguard published on 13 March. Last year the figure was 7684. HM Coastguard co-ordinated search and rescue efforts in 4030 incidents, a fall of 331 compared with 1976. In 1977, 208 lives were lost compared with 239 in 1976.

The fall in numbers of incidents, rescues and deaths in 1977 reflects the fact that the summer was less fine than those of 1975 and 1976 and so attracted fewer people to the water, cliffs and shores for recreational purposes. The number of cliff or shore rescues fell by nearly one-quarter to 485 and incidents involving dinghies and inflatables by nearly one-fifth to 220. Incidents involving recreational sailing and powered crafts numbered 1117, a fall of less than 5 per cent.

Winter storm conditions meant that the number of casualties involving merchant vessels (100) remained the same as in 1976. There was a fall in the number of incidents involving commercial fishing vessels but 47 fishermen died, the highest for any one category of vessel. The number of deaths on merchant vessels numbered 26.

Deaths on pleasure crafts numbered 38, half of them resulting from capsizing. Two people died of exposure or drowning after being carried out to sea on airbeds.

Commenting on the figures, Commander John Douglas, Chief Inspector, HM Coastguard, said, 'The fall in the number of incidents involving recreational crafts must be seen as encouraging. People seemed to have the sense not to go out in bad weather and HM Coastguard tries to encourage this sense of responsibility. One way is by the coastguard small boat and yacht safety scheme, which is being adopted by increasing numbers of amateur sailors.'

Another safety measure strongly recommended by HM Coastguard is the installation of vhf radio equipment. Commander Douglas said that coastguards monitored channel 16 (the calling, safety and distress frequency) round the clock. If a boat was in trouble it was almost 100 per cent certain that a channel 16 call would be heard and answered. The success of flares in attracting help depended on visual sighting and this was a far less reliable method.

HM Coastguard incident/casualty statistics: years 1976 and 1977

1976	Persons rescued Lives lost	7684 239					1977	Persons rescued Lives lost	7433 208
TYPE OF INCIDENT/CASUALTY	1976	1976 % of total	1977	1977 % of total	% + or – 1976-77	MAIN REASON FOR TREND			
Recreational, sailing and powered craft	1 174	27.0	1 117	27.7	–4.8	A poor summer reduced the amount of recreational activity at sea			
Searches: missing and overdue persons and craft	1 315	30.1	1 328	33.0	+0.9	Lost and found in poor weather at sea and on shore			
Small craft, dinghies and inflatables	269	6.2	220	5.5	–18	The weather not conducive to near shore/children and air beds, etc			
Cliff and shoreline/tide rescues	630	14.4	485	12	–23	The weather not conducive to near shore/children and air beds, etc			
Commercial fishing vessels	355	8.1	328	8.1	–7.6	Apparent reduction in UK registered fishing vessels operating around our shores			
Medical assistance to ships at sea	326	7.5	255	6.3	–30	Winter storm conditions have kept up at 'at sea' casualty figures			
Merchants ships	100	2.3	100	2.5	Same	Changeable weather conditions both winter and summer			
Miscellaneous (persons, craft, aircraft)	192	4.4	197	4.9	+2.6				
Totals	4 361	—	4 030	—	–7.6	Far less small boat and fishing activity around our coast			

Award for 'Elinor Viking' rescuers

The Department of Trade rescue shield for 1977 is to be awarded jointly to the members of HM Coastguard, Shetland District and the aircrew of a British Airways helicopter for the rescue of all eight of the crew of the Aberdeen trawler *Elinor Viking* off the notorious Vee Skerries, Shetland, on 9 December 1977.

The *Elinor Viking* was holed on rocks on the Vee Skerries in very severe weather conditions on the afternoon of 9 December. The Aith lifeboat was launched within minutes of the request having been made to do so by coastguards at Lerwick. On arrival at the scene it was unable to get alongside the *Elinor Viking* because of the position of the wreck. By this time the *Elinor Viking* was half full of water and both its liferafts had been swept away.

Meanwhile, coastguards had asked British Airways Helicopters at Sumburgh for assistance. A helicopter, fuelled and winch-fitted, was available and a scratch crew immediately volunteered. They took off within minutes, reaching the scene of the wreck as the *Elinor Viking* was breaking up. After several attempts in appalling conditions and darkness, all eight crew of the vessel were winched aboard the helicopter in darkness, the winchman narrowly escaping serious injury when he was buffeted by the wind against the mast of the ship.

This rescue was the first ever from the Vee Skerries in gale conditions. In 1930 coastguards and trawlermen watched helplessly as the crew of the Aberdeen trawler *Ben Doran* were washed overboard one by one with rescuers unable to get near because of the rocks and rough seas.

The *Elinor Viking* rescue was all the more remarkable because the volunteer helicopter crew were unused to this type of search and rescue operation. The Department of Trade is currently pursuing the question of having a declared search and rescue helicopter stationed at Sumburgh.

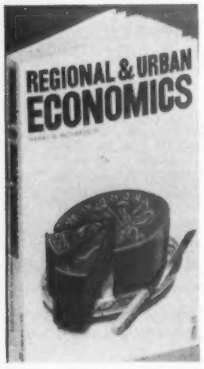
New life-saving appliances guide

Guidance notes on life-saving appliances on offshore installations were published on 8 March by the Department of Energy (HMSO, price £4). They are intended to provide general guidance to owners of offshore installations, manufacturers of life-saving appliances, marine surveyors, and others in relation to the provisions of the Offshore Installations (Life-Saving Appliances) Regulations 1977. The notes, unlike the regulations, do not have legal force.

The regulations apply to all established fixed and mobile offshore installations concerned with the exploitation of the United Kingdom's offshore oil and gas resources. They do not apply to support vessels.

New publications

Latest research in regional and urban economics



Professor Harry Richardson's new paperback on regional and urban economics is his third attempt on the subject in less than 10 years! He feels however, that recent progress, and his own changing opinions, justify a new work rather than a revision of previous ones. Regional economics covers by far the greater portion of the book, largely because he believes Britain, and many other countries, are more interested in regional as opposed to urban economics.

After defining in some detail what a 'region' constitutes, the author examines spatial price theory, location, macrodemand models, trade and factor movements, regional growth, growth pole analysis, techniques of analysis, and policy issues and evaluation – rounding up the section with a discussion on regional policy in the United Kingdom.

The last third of the book deals with cities and explains basic theoretical issues along with selected urban policy issues: the public sector, transportation, housing and environmental problems.

For anyone wishing to pursue this subject (though from an American viewpoint) the author has written another book entitled 'Urban Economics' which is due to be published by Dryden Press later this year.

The present volume is clearly and concisely written and should be valuable to everyone interested in this aspect of economics. In discussing the evolution of regional and urban economics the author gives his latest research findings as well as those of other people. Although by an American, the book is written for an international audience. There is an extensive (28-page) bibliography as well as separate subject and name indices

Regional and Urban Economics, by Harry W. Richardson. Penguin 1978. 416 pages; paperback. £2.25 (ISBN 0 14 080930 9).

European data sources explained

A variety of guides to the ever-growing mass of published data that the businessman needs, particularly on overseas markets, have appeared over the years. Location of business information, particularly on an international scale, can be a daunting prospect. Sources are so varied, ranging from international organisations and government departments to trade associations and the press. The latest attempt to rationalise this complexity of data is therefore welcome. It is the Cambridge Information and Research Services Ltd's second, much expanded edition of 'Sources of European Economic Information'.

Nearly 2000 references are given to statistical bulletins, trade directories, bank reports and selected market studies of particular industries and services for 17 countries of western Europe.

The guide is arranged in two parts, the core being an alphabetical list of source publications, by country, with bibliographical details and a brief description of the contents of each item. This is followed by a three-part index, by publisher, title, and by subject and country.

While such a publication cannot hope to be fully comprehensive, this does provide in one concise and well laid-out volume, a broad overview of the main sources and types of economic information available. As such it is a very useful tool for the businessman or researcher who is looking for a starting point from which to develop a file on a given topic.

Sources of European Economic Information, compiled by Cambridge Information and Research Services Ltd. 2nd edition. Gower Press 1977. 267 pages. £30.00 (ISBN 0566 02007 6).

European industrial growth patterns

Anybody interested in the development of the structure of European industry, over the period 1950-70 will want to see a recent industry-by-industry comparative study prepared by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe. Dealing separately with western and eastern Europe, the study starts with the former, comparing national statistical data for the 1960s (ending around 1970) on topics such as factor intensities, differential productivity growth, and prices. Countries covered include Belgium, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic), Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the UK and Yugoslavia. Comparisons are occasionally made with the United States.

The second part, covering eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, compares national statistical data for the 1950s and 1960s (also ending in 1970) on such topics as production, productivity and overall trends in trade. It goes on to deal with changes in industrial and input structure, growth of factor productivity, patterns of foreign trade in relation to industry output, and patterns of intercountry specialisation for Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany (Democratic Republic), Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union.

There is only a brief and general comparison between west and east because of substantial differences between international statistical systems used, particularly in the classification of industries. The countries chosen are those whose national statistics are comparable and consistent with other countries.

According to the authors, the material presented can be regarded as a norm against which to consider the kinds of structural change that may occur in the future.

Structure and change in European industry; prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. 1977. 289 pages. $US16.00 or equivalent. United Nations publication sales number E77.II E3 (ISBN 0 11 905107 9).

Economic growth questioned again

To be a successful popular writer on economics is no mean achievement. Such an author is E. J. Mishan, whose 'The Economic Growth Debate: an assessment' has appeared as a sequel to his earlier work, 'The Costs of Economic Growth'. The latter is now considered to be something of a seminal study in the current debate on the desirability of economic growth. The new book will not disappoint admirers of the earlier study.

Mishan examines the sources of complacency in the conventional economic approach to the measurement of social welfare, specifically questioning whether changes in gnp can be regarded as reliable indicators of the nation's overall economic efficiency. He goes on to question both the possibility and the desirability of continued economic growth in relation to the survival of our civilisation, and concludes that such 'progress' in the west will remove us yet further from 'the good life'.

Mishan's view of man as a wrecker of both social and ecological order is a depressing one, and he offers the drowning reader no straws of optimism to clutch at, for even at the most personal level, he sees man inevitably perverted by the commercial exploitation of his cravings for novelty and excitement. Depressing indeed; but the thesis is clearly argued and usefully annotated, and so accessible to economist and layman alike. With its predecessor it will surely take its place as a minor classic on the subject.

The Economic Growth Debate: an assessment, by E. J. Mishan. Allen and Unwin 1977. 277 pages, hardback £7.50 (ISBN 0 04 330280 7); paperback £3.50 (ISBN 0 04 330281 5).

Readers requiring copies of any of the publications mentioned on this page, should contact a bookseller or the publisher given at the end of each review. No requests for copies should be sent directly to *Trade and Industry*, unless otherwise stated.

New products

Rigid hydraulic assemblies from Dunlop

With the formal opening of its new factory at Pennywell industrial estate, Sunderland, last week (8 March), Dunlop Industrial Group added rigid assemblies to its range of hydraulic hose products. The new factory, which is the sixth operating unit to be established by the group's hydraulic hose division in the north-east, enables Dunlop to offer a complete package of flexible and rigid hydraulic tube, plus associated assembly components.

Already a leading European supplier of flexible hose and assemblies to the mining, agricultural, construction, civil engineering and mechanical and materials handling industries, the division has invested over £¼ million in new plant at Sunderland for the manipulation of steel pipe. The main feature of the new investment is the introduction of computer technology to eliminate the time-consuming skill demanded from both setter and operator to achieve the requisite accuracy from the tube-bending machines.

The bending machines at the new factory are linked via a microprocessor and a computer to a three-axis measuring machine. Tooling is mounted on the machine appropriate to the diameter and wall thickness of the tube and the radius of the bend required. A program is entered into the computer, recalled or determined from an existing sample or drawing, and automatic compensation is made for the physical characteristics of the material to be bent. The computer feeds the program to the microprocessor which controls the cycle of the bending machine, two buttons are pressed, and within seconds the completed tube is unloaded.

The resulting accuracy, which Dunlop believes has not been previously available, is plus or minus 0.1 degrees in angular measurement and plus or minus 0.005in in linear measurement.

From bending, the pipe would normally go on to the end-forming process: flares, beads, double beads, flanges, reductions and expansions can be produced at the Sunderland factory. End fittings may then be attached before the pipe is thoroughly cleaned, with the removal of all rust, brazing flux, greases and general contamination, and the application of corrosion resistant protection.

Further information: circle 469

Trunking system can be modular

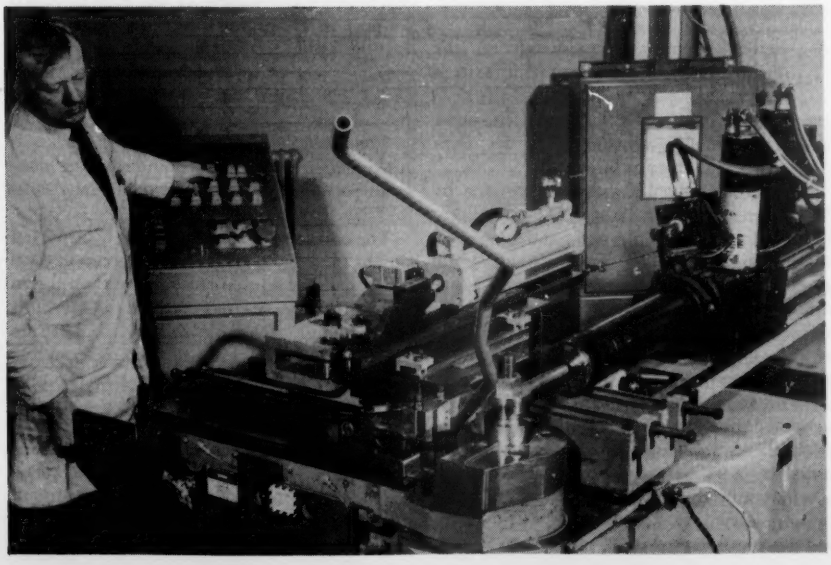
A trunking system made of white polyviny chloride plastics (PVC) is available from Egatube Ltd in a range of nine sizes from 16 mm square to 100 mm × 40 mm and includes a 40 mm × 40 mm size, making it possible to build up modular installations.

The system is suitable for all climates and features a clip-on-lid – easy to apply and remove, but secure when in place.

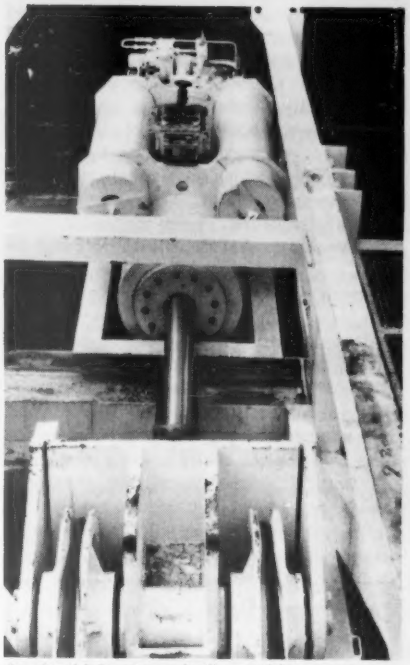
Trunking is designed to unobtrusively blend with the decor and is non-corrosive and non-conductive. Surface installation is easy and quick, and the system comes complete with all accessories.

Further information: circle 470

A large-capacity bending machine in operation at the new Dunlop hydraulic hose division factory in Sunderland.



Conveyor belt unit provides constant tension



A unit which automatically provides constant tension for conveyor belt systems, ensuring satisfactory drive performance under most conditions, has been introduced by Huwood Ltd of Gateshead. The system avoids the need for the costly excavation work, associated with gravity towers for housing pulleys and weights. Using hydraulics, the belt tensioning unit is designed for use with conveyor loop take-up units and is arranged so it can be bolted directly to the end of a standard-type loop take-up to provide automatic belt tensioning. The system provides for a maximum take up travel of 6 m.

Further information: circle 471

Bandsaw speed infinitely variable

Tests carried out by Startrite Machine Tool Co of London have led to the development of an infinitely variable transmission for its Rapier range of bandsaws. These machines can be supplied with throat depths from 350 mm to 750 mm.

The new drive offers an infinitely variable speed range of 15 to 900 metres per minute and blade speed is indicated on an easy-to-read scale. The original five speed pulley drive is now replaced by a pair of synchronised expanding pulleys. A large handle is used to vary the blade speed, which is more convenient than changing pulleys.

Further infromation: circle 472

Freepost reader service

For further information on itemsi n this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Cable sheathing cold bends at − 35 °C

A heavy-duty cable sheathing compound suitable for use in a wide range of industrial applications and climatic conditions has been developed by Greengate Cables Ltd.

Heavy-duty Niplas sheathing, says the manufacturer, is both capable of cold bending at −35 °C without fracture and operating over EP rubber which has a maximum working temperature of 90 °C. The extension of the lower temperature range for such types of cables means that the sheathing could be reeled and recovered at low temperatures making it suitable for use with deck equipment, such as davits, on vessels operating in Arctic waters or as trailing power cables for walking draglines and other large-scale earthmoving equipment employed in surface mining in sub-zero conditions.

In addition to providing protection for power and control cables in both sub-Arctic and tropical temperatures, the sheathing material has a low oil absorption rate.

This says the company effectively reduces the fire risk, an important factor in high-risk situations such as oil rigs, tanker terminals and oil-storage farms where accidental spillages can occur. Further, it claims, where cables are housed in conduits, as in diesel locomotives, for example, the low oil absorption factor eliminates the risk of cables swelling to the point where oil contaminated cables have to be stripped out and replaced.

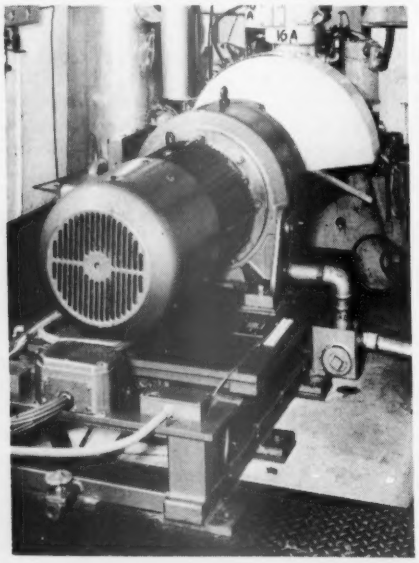
Greengate Cables says that its heavy-duty Niplas fully conforms to BS 6899 and the sheathing material and associated insulant can be applied to any power or control conductors. Where required for trailing application the sheathing can be supplied complete with an integral anti-twist marker.

Further information: circle 474

Regenerative dynamometer for diesel engines

A regenerative dynamometer capable of running in and then carrying out production, performance and endurance testing of automative-type diesel engines has been developed by Froude Engineering, a Redman Heenan company, in association with the Esso Petroleum Research Centre, Abingdon. Designed to feed generated current directly to the mains without distortion, it is based on a standard variable-speed drive unit. The dynamometer can be used in conjunction with a standard Froude control system, is fully compatible with existing test-bed installations and, if required, can be controlled either by a programmer or computer.

Further information: circle 473



Steel-framed building system for fast construction

Capable of being erected at a rate of five-and-a-half man-hours/m², without using mechanical plant, a modular steel-framed building system developed by Lovell Housing Ltd, can be packed into standard 12 or 6 m containers for shipping. Based on a 1200 mm module, with intermediate modules possible, the 12S system is particularly suitable for hot climates. It consists of prefinished steel-framed panels linked together by a special concealed bolting mechanism, and erected on a low-cost substructure consisting of a galvanised-steel ring beam set on a concrete pad foundation. Intermediate floors are of steel-lattice beams and composite board or plywood, and flat or pitched roofs are possible. All panels are fully insulated and the system's resistance to wind loadings and seismic disturbances makes it also suitable for use in areas prone to earthquakes.

Further information: circle 475

Hand-held thermometer gives two readings

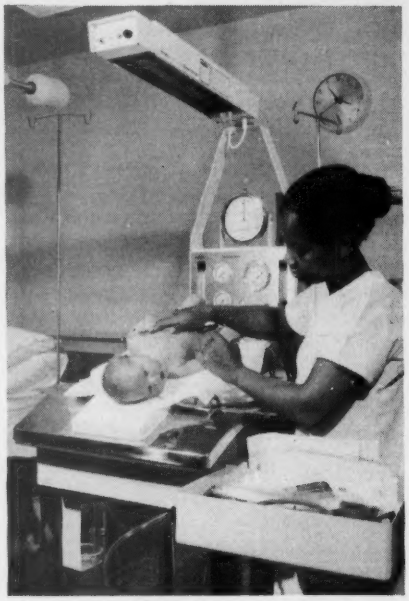
A digital thermometer introduced by Hyprovac of Rayleigh, Essex, with a fixed 300 mm probe providing a direct temperature reading can, at the flick of a switch, show the difference between probe tip temperature and ambient temperature.

Measuring only 120 mm by 65 mm by 40 mm and weighing 290 g, the Hyprotherm is specially designed for one-hand operation leaving the other hand free, for example, to protect the operator when taking temperature measurements in hazardous areas. It has a range of 0-800 °C and an absolute accuracy of ±2 °C; accuracy is ensured by a built-in ambient temperature compensation device.

The easy to read liquid crystal display is activated by just two switches: on/off and true/differential temperature. Power is provided by a 9V battery giving approximately three months' life when operated for two hours a day.

Further information: circle 476

Respiratory unit designed for infants



This Vickers Resuscitaire hospital trolley provides a mobile fully-equipped emergency resuscitation service for babies born with respiratory difficulties or in need of immediate special treatment. It is designed for maximum simplicity of operation and provides equipment for observation of the infant after resuscitation together with a table for surgical procedures. The trolley is fully mobile with controls and instruments conveniently grouped together so that it can be quickly put into operation where facilities are urgently needed.

Further information: circle 477

Mobile plant for making tiles on site

A mobile concrete roof tile plant has been developed by the Redland Roof Tiles and Technology companies. It has been designed for use in countries where distance or the existing industrial infrastructure make availability of building materials on site more important than centralised, high-volume production.

The basic plant produces smooth-surfaced, plain or through-coloured interlocking concrete roof tiles and is designed to be robust and easy to maintain.

The complete plant unit can be transported on not more than six 20-tonne lorries and no single piece of equipment is more than 6.1 m in length. The site requirements of the unit are minimal: a simple canopy, a concrete apron, water and fuel oil for the concrete curing system. Electric power can be provided by a skid-mounted generator.

Production is based on a net output of 5000 tiles per eight-hour day. The plant is designed for relatively labour-intensive operation but can be manned by a minimum of nine people.

Further information: circle 478

Technology news

Viewdata to go public in 1979 . . .

The public Viewdata service is to start early in 1979, a year sooner than originally envisaged. The Post Office has earmarked £23 million to establish the world's first public Viewdata service which will enable people to call up information over their telephone line and have it displayed on their television sets in words and simple diagrams.

Up to £5 million would be spent immediately, says the Post Office, to set up 10 Viewdata centres, located in London and at least two other cities. A further £18 million had been made available to extend and develop this revolutionary service during 1979. Plans now being drawn up are for Viewdata centres in London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester and Norwich.

Almost limitless information can be made available, on subjects ranging from sports results to stock market prices, and from up-to-the-minute news to welfare services. At the start of public service, the system will have a capacity of a quarter of a million 'pages' of information. It will become a powerful tool for people at home and in business alike, putting at their fingertips the up-to-date facts and figures they need for work and leisure. It will soon enable them to send and receive visual messages, at first in the UK, later around the world.

At present the Post Office, in close collaboration with information providers and the tv industry – is preparing for a public trial of the system in June. This trial, for which the Post Office has already allocated £3 million, will go ahead as planned in London, Birmingham and Norwich, except that the number taking part is now likely to be 1500 instead of 1000.

Seven areas of London have been chosen for the trial: Bexleyheath, Hammersmith, Hounslow, Lewisham, Redbridge, Sutton and Waltham Forest. In Birmingham the trial will cover all areas where telephone numbers begin 021-, while in East Anglia it will include Cromer and Great Yarmouth as well as Norwich. Invitations to take part in the trial will shortly go out from the Post Office.

For the public Viewdata service, in 1979 people at home will need to be on the phone, and to buy or rent a colour tv set that has been specially modified to receive Viewdata. They will be supplied with the push-button units that are used to obtain Viewdata information and they would also enable users to receive Teletext.

For business users, desk-top tv sets are being developed for Viewdata. These may be in black and white or colour. When equipped with typewriter-like keyboards, they would, within the next two years, allow users to send or receive messages as well as display Viewdata information. Every user's Viewdata set will have built in its own unique Viewdata code number, for identification and billing purposes. This is automatically scanned by the computer every time a Viewdata call is made.

Among the 150 information providers already involved in Viewdata, the nation's newspaper industry is well represented, with Westminster Press, Eastern Counties Newspapers and Reuters taking part. In addition, the Financial Times and Extel have formed a new organisation, Fintel, which will exploit the opportunities Viewdata offers. Other publishing organisations include the British Printing Corporation, the International Publishing Corporation, Exchange and Mart, W. H. Smith, Guiness Superlatives and HMSO.

Consumer guidance will be available from the Consumers' Association and the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection. There will be rail and air travel information, tourist information, careers guidance, job vacancies and educational opportunities. Welfare information is being supplied by the Greater London Council and by London boroughs in the areas covered by the market trial. Guidance and information will also be available from the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Information providers retain full commercial and editorial control of the information they provide for Viewdata. They are free to decide whether or not to charge users for the information they provide – but if they do charge, the amount must be displayed on each page for which a charge is made, and their name appears on each page for which they are responsible. There is an annual fee of £250 to provide information for Viewdata, plus a storage charge of £1 per page a year. In addition, the special terminal used to put information into Viewdata costs £400 a year to rent from the Post Office.

. . . and software package for computer input being developed

A major development area for Viewdata lies in interactive systems. Thus it will be possible to use the Viewdata terminal for ordering, for sending messages and thus for developments towards electronic mail. A software products scheme, which is administered by The National Computing Centre on behalf of the Department of Industry, will be providing funds in support of 'Preview', a package being developed by Langton Information Systems of London. This package will allow computer users to reformat existing files for input to the Post Office Viewdata service.

Viewdata provides for simple tree searching of databases via terminals which are developments of domestic TV receivers. A closed user group facility is provided to organisations wishing to restrict access to their information on the Viewdata-base.

Preview is a parameter driven package which takes conventional computer files, formats these into Viewdata pages, builds up 'trees' for each different access route to the information and handles cross-references between trees. It allows the incorporation of prompting and other routing aids to ease the task of the ultimate user.

All of this formatted information is automatically mapped across to the structure of the Viewdata-base and converted to the special input formats of the Post Office.

The first applications of Viewdata lie in the publishing field. However, Viewdata provides attractions for many data processing systems, where paper, COM or even dedicated on-line systems are being considered.

New technologies sought for future oil production

The need to develop new advanced technologies to cope with problems associated with producing oil from small fields and from much deeper waters were recognised, Dr Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for energy, told visitors to the Oceanology International exhibition in Brighton on 6 March. Marginal fields cannot be neglected and the means have to be found not only to win the oil but to do so at an acceptable cost, he added.

Dr Mabon spoke of the exciting new concepts, such as sub-sea production, being tried in the North Sea. With them would come attendant requirements for underwater working, underwater power, support equipment, safety matters, life support and the avoidance of pollution. British firms, he said, must stay in the forefront of technical development.

Technology to develop in deeper waters would become important in the late 1980s when exploration and, hopefully, production moved into areas such as the West Coast of Scotland and Rockall. Abroad, deep water technology would be required on the edge of most Continental shelves. The east coast of the USA was likely to be one of the first areas to be developed. By about 1985, it was believed that production from depths of up to some 300 m would be possible. Currently, Thistle field at 168 m was the deepest field under development in the North Sea.

Underwater work in support of activities like pipe-laying and burial, platform installation and piling, and underwater inspection, including replacement of cathodic-protection units was now highly sophisticated due largely to the innovation of British engineers. Because of the exceptional hazards of working in the North Sea, the government had been active in framing regulations covering all aspects of safety in relation to offshore operations and installations. The standards, which were probably the most advanced in the world, called for fire-fighting packages, fire detection and quenching systems, boats, davits and navigational aids. More than 90 per cent of the safety equipment used in the North Sea was of UK manufacture. British suppliers, therefore, had the experience to supply overseas requirements.

Parliament

Monday, 6 March

Price index

Fergus Montgomery (Altrincham and Sale) asked what had been the increase in the retail price index since March 1974. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked what was the increase in the Price Commission six-monthly index.

Mr Hattersley said that the retail price index rose by 0.6 per cent in January. That brought the annual rate of increase down to 9.9 per cent for the first time since October 1973. The increase since March 1974 had been 84.7 per cent. The revised figure for the rise in the Price Commission index for the six months to January was 5.9 per cent at an annual rate.

Incomes policy

Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what estimate he had made of the effect on prices of the government's voluntary incomes policy blacklist.

Mr Hattersley answered that recent improvements in the inflation rate were largely the result of moderate wage agreements made over the last two-and-a-half years. It would clearly be damaging to the prospects of general acceptance of this policy if some wage increases, outside the guidelines, were subsidised out of public funds.

EEC directive on metrication

Richard Body (Holland with Boston) asked what changes in chapters A, B, C and D of the EEC directive on metrication had been made since 7 July 1976.

Mr Fraser replied that as promised when the House had debated a draft of this directive on 7 July 1976 a number of substantial changes were made before the directive (76/770/EEC) was finally adopted and published on 27 July 1976. The alterations to the chapters were that the hand, the horsepower and the millimetre of mercury (for medical purposes only) were moved from chapter B to chapter C.

Display of service prices

Harry Cowans (Newcastle upon Tyne Central) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he would now use his powers in the Price Commission Act to require the display of prices of services.

Mr Maclennan said that his department was currently consulting on the draft order requiring prices to be marked for food and drink and the immediate intention was to follow this with further orders relating to goods. The government's programme would however include orders relating to certain services as soon as possible. Decisions on which sectors to cover first would have to be taken nearer the time, but restaurants and cafe's, shoe repairs and hairdressing were among the sectors being considered.

Unit pricing

Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what further steps he was taking to extend unit pricing.

Mr Maclennan said that the government reached an important stage in its action programme when it made unit pricing compulsory for meat and cheese on 1 March. He intended that the next stage of the programme should include further coverage of fish, processed meat products, poultry and pre-packed fruit and vegetables.

Price-fixing agreements

R. E. Bean (Rochester and Chatham) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what action he was taking following the disclosure of numerous unregistered price-fixing agreements in ready-mixed concrete and blacktop.

Mr Fraser replied that action on restrictive trading agreements was for the Director General of Fair Trading. The minister understood that he had applied to the Restrictive Practices Court for orders against the parties to some of the agreements concerned, which he had placed on the public register; and that he would be taking similar action in respect of other agreements that had been disclosed. The Director of Public Prosecutions would be informed if it appeared from the director general's inquiries that there had been a breach of the criminal law.

Second-hand car credit

Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked how many second-hand car dealers would need credit-broking licences; and whether malpractices in car sales would be taken into account when the licences were considered.

Mr Fraser said that the great majority of such dealers introduced their customers to sources of credit and would therefore need licences; all relevant business practices of applicants would be taken into account by the Director General of Fair Trading in considering their fitness to have licences.

Cosmetics directive

Joyce Butler (Haringey, Wood Green) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to what extent he proposed to take account of the views of medical experts before making regulations in implementation of the EEC cosmetics directive.

Mr Fraser replied that full account would be taken of the views expressed by all the interested bodies consulted by his department about the draft regulations and of the advice of medical advisers in the Department of Health and Social Security.

Dunford and Elliott Ltd

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the total cost of the former Industrial Reorganisation Corporation's holding in Dunford and Elliott Ltd; what was the consideration the National Enterprise Board received for this holding when it disposed of it to Lonrho Ltd; and on what date he gave the National Enterprise Board his approval for this disposal.

Mr Huckfield replied that the total cost of the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation's holding in Dunford and Elliott Ltd was £133,053. The holding was subsequently transferred to his department and then to the National Enterprise Board, and they augmented it when they subscribed for a rights issue of preference shares. The Secretary of State approved the disposal by the board of all these shares on 8 December 1976 and Mr Huckfield understood that the consideration received was £353,794.

Price Commission investigations

Tony Durant (Reading North) asked how many Price Commission investigations had been instigated so far.

Mr Maclennan said that the Price Commission had instigated 17 investigations, the reports on eight of which had been published to date. Two more were to be published shortly.

NEB share holdings

Michael Grylls (North West Surrey) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would update the information given in his 13 February answer (see Trade and Industry *24 February) on shareholdings of the National Enterprise Board, on 1 March 1978.*

Mr Huckfield said that the reply which he gave on 13 February required to be supplemented or amended as follows:

Company	Type of share	Number held by NEB	Per cent held of nominal value of total equity	Cost (£'000)	Stock Exchange quotation where available [1]
Barrow Hepburn Group Ltd	25p ordinary	1 000 000	4.2	450	44p
British Leyland Ltd	50p ordinary	246 490 683	95.1	246 491	22p
British Tanners Products Ltd	£1 ordinary	2 000 000	50	2 000	–
Brown Boveri Kent Ltd	25p ordinary	7 658 938	17.6	1 880	41½p
Data Recording Instrument Co Ltd	£1 ordinary	3 970 337	63.1	3 970	
ICL Ltd	£1 ordinary	8 148 750	24.4	12 135	220p
Newbury Laboratories Ltd	Investment disposed of to Data Recording Instrument Co Ltd				
Power Dynamics Ltd	£1 ordinary	60 000	33.3	60	–
	£1 redeemable preference	120 000		120	–

[1] Closing prices on 1 March 1978.

Ministers

Department of Industry

Secretary of State: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Department of Trade

Secretary of State: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Consumer expenditure

David Price (Eastleigh) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what was his estimate of total consumer expenditure in 1977; and what percentage of the goods and services concerned were subject to price control by official bodies and to permitted resale price maintenance agreements, respectively.

Mr Maclennan replied that total consumers' expenditure in 1977 was estimated to be £35,147 million, at 1970 constant prices. The Price Commission Act (1977) permitted the commission to investigate prices and margins over about three-quarters of this area; however they may also investigate margins of all distributors of goods in the United Kingdom. Other official bodies had a role in regulating prices and charges for about a quarter of the remaining area. Goods and services subject to permitted resale price maintenance agreements, namely, books and proprietary medicines accounted for less than one per cent of consumers' expenditure.

Price Commission investigations of foreign goods

Tom Litterick (Birmingham, Selly Oak) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether he was satisfied that the Price Commission had adequate powers to assess the acceptability of prices charged for goods manufactured by foreign based multi-national companies.

Mr Maclennan answered that prices for all goods and services produced in the United Kingdom could be investigated by the Price Commission whether or not the company concerned was UK owned or the subsidiary of a foreign based multi-national company.

Consumer advice centres

Andrew Bennett (Stockport North) asked how many new consumer advice centres would open in the next year.

Mr Fraser replied that it was intended that 26 new centres would open as a result of the £300,000 which his department was providing to grant aid their setting up costs. Twenty-five of these centres were receiving 100 per cent grants. He hoped that other centres might also be opened independently of this scheme.

Special discounts

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would refer to the Price Commission the level of discounts required by supermarket chain stores from food manufacturers and the effect of these on the profitability of the supermarkets and the manufacturers.

Mr Maclennan said that the government had considered for some time that information was required about the extent and effects of granting special discounts to some retailers only, including discounts of the kind mentioned by the questioner. It was for that reason that a reference on the subject was made to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in July of last year. The commission would be glad to receive any evidence that may be relevant to their inquiries.

Diesel engines for British shipbuilders

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked whether the companies in the private sector which manufactured medium-speed diesel engines had sufficient capacity to supply the requirements of British Shipbuilders at competitive prices.

Mr Huckfield said that British Shipbuilders' requirements were determined by the types of engines to be installed in the ships they build. A number of types of engine currently used in ships were not made by private-sector companies in this country.

Retail trade turnover

David Price (Eastleigh) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what was his estimate of the total sales turnover of United Kingdom retail trade for the years 1970 to 1977, inclusive, measured both at current prices and at 1970 prices.

Mr Meacher said that the available information on the total sales by retail businesses in the United Kingdom was as follows:

£ billion

	Great Britain [1] Current prices	Northern Ireland [2] Current prices	Great Britain [1] 1971 prices
1970	14.8	0.27	16.0
1971	16.3	0.29	16.3
1972	18.3	0.29	17.2
1973	20.7	0.34	18.0
1974	23.9	0.39	17.8
1975	28.4	0.47	17.4
1976	32.6	0.55	17.4
1977	37.9	0.65	17.7

[1] The figures for Great Britain are based on the monthly retail sales index which is compiled using 1971 prices. [2] The figures for Northern Ireland are based on an index compiled by the Department of Commerce; no constant price estimates are published.

Spanish paper dumping

Roger Moate (Faversham) asked what representations had been made about alleged dumping of Spanish paper in the United Kingdom.

Mr Meacher answered that allegations had been made by UK industry that soft toilet rolls had been dumped from Spain. The EEC commission's view was that the volume of imports did not as yet warrant a full investigation, but the situation was being watched closely.

Sonic booms

David Penhaligon (Truro) asked the Secretary of State for Trade in view of the public compaints about bangs which do not appear to be connected with Concorde flight times, if he would order an investigation.

Mr Clinton Davis said that there were few complaints about sonic booms that could not be identified as due to Concorde. Where sufficient information was given they were all investigated individually.

Indian turnover tax on shipping

Cranley Onslow (Woking) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he had made to the government of India against its unilateral application of a turnover tax on British shipping companies trading to and from Indian ports.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that no specific representations had been made. However talks had been held between officials of the two governments about a comprehensive double taxation agreement in which the taxation of shipping had been discussed. Further talks were planned for later this year.

Concorde booms in west country

David Penhaligon (Truro) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what response he had had to his request to the public for details of the damage and inconvenience caused by the Concorde sonic booms in the west country.

Mr Clinton Davis replied that there had been a very good response to his request for reports by the general public on the precise place, time and nature of the booms being heard in the south west and the information the department was receiving was proving very helpful in the continuing research into the problem of secondary sonic booms. He would hope to be able to place in the library of the House a further progress report on this research within a few weeks. He would add that while he appreciated that secondary booms may be causing inconvenience, extensive tests had shown that booms of this intensity should not cause damage to or aggravate minor faults in sound structures.

Sub-standard ships

John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he had anything to report on arrangements between North Sea region states to exercise port state control on sub-standard ships.

Mr Clinton Davis said that shipping officials of eight west European governments had signed a memorandum of understanding, operative from 1 July 1978, providing for joint action against sub-standard ships in the North Sea region in conformity with international obligations. He was arranging for a copy of the memorandum to be placed in the library of the House.

Tuesday, 7 March

Grants for Merseyside industrial development

John Evans (Newton) asked what was the total amount of grants for industrial development that the government had paid out in each of the last 10 years on Merseyside; and for a list of each category of grant.

Mr Cryer replied that selective assistance under the Industry Act, 1972 had been made available in Merseyside as follows:

Year ending 31 December	Section 7 interest relief grants £'000	Section 8 interest relief grants £'000	Section 8 grants £'000	Total (out-turn prices) £'000
1973	149	—	—	149
1974	820	—	—	820
1975	1 123	—	—	1 123
1976	3 297	1 244	479	5 020
1977	6 949	—	434	7 383
	12 338	1 244	913	14 495

Merseyside was part of the north west region. No precise figures of regional development grant paid in Merseyside were available but regional development grant was paid in the north west as follows:

£ million

1972-73	0.3
1973-74	16.1
1974-75	40.7
1975-76	47.9
1976-77	54.8
April to Sept 1977	18.1

It was estimated that approximately 75 per cent of the grants were paid for Merseyside. Investment grants were paid in Merseyside as follows:

£'000

1967-68	33.674	included Barrow-in-Furness and Dalton-in-Furness
1968-69	46.606	
1969-70	51.490	
1970-71	58.428	

(1970-71 is the last year for which information was available).

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State regreted that the remaining information sought was not readily available and could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Other grants for industrial development

John Evans (Newton) asked what was the total amount of grants for industrial development that the government had paid out in each of the last 10 years in Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Haydock (St Helens), Lancashire, Golborne (Wigan), Irlam (Salford); and if he would list each category of grant.

Mr Cryer said that selective assistance under the Industry Act, 1972 had been made available as follows:

CHESHIRE

Year ending 31 December	Section 7 interest relief grants £'000	Section 8 interest relief grants £'000	Section 8 grants £'000	Total (out-turn prices) £'000
1973	186	—	—	186
1974	594	—	30	624
1975	482	—	—	482
1976	2 079	538	418	3 035
1977	3 998	—	140	4 138
	7 339	538	588	8 465

GREATER MANCHESTER

Year ending 31 December	Section 7 interest relief grants £'000	Section 8 interest relief grants £'000	Section 8 grants £'000	Total (out-turn prices) £'000
1973	3 088	—	—	3 088
1974	1 509	—	41	1 550
1975	1 048	—	506	1 554
1976	3 811	7 591	760	12 162
1977	4 291	73	1 689	6 053
	13 747	7 664	2 996	24 407

ST HELENS EMPLOYMENT OFFICE AREA

Year ending 31 December	Section 7 interest relief grants £'000	Section 8 interest relief grants £'000	Section 8 grants £'000	Total (out-turn prices) £'000
1973	26	—	—	26
1974	153	—	—	153
1975	48	—	—	48
1976	203	82	—	285
1977	265	—	31	296
	695	82	31	808

LANCASHIRE

Year ending 31 December	Section 7 interest relief grants £'000	Section 8 grants £'000	Total (out-turn prices) £'000
1973	530	—	530
1974	1 458	13	1 471
1975	1 537	213	1 750
1976	994	210	1 204
1977	2 084	1 378	3 462
	6 603	1 814	8 417

GOLBORNE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE AREA

Year ending 31 December	Section 7 interest relief grants £'000
1975	34

IRLAM EMPLOYMENT OFFICE AREA

Year ending 31 December	Section 7 interest relief grants £'000
1976	92
1977	3
	95

Mr Cryer regreted that the remaining information sought was not readily available and could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Medium-speed diesel engines

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked how many and which companies in the United Kingdom currently manufactured medium-speed diesel engines in the private sector; and what was their contribution to exports for the last year for which figures were available.

Mr Cryer replied that the manufacturers of medium-speed diesel engines of 5000 kW and over in the private sector were Mirrlees Blackstone (Stockport) Ltd, Ruston Diesels Ltd and APE Crossley Ltd. Separate export figures for large medium-speed

diesel engines were not available. In 1977 direct exports of all compression ignition engines for marine propulsion and other uses of a power more than 5000 kW were valued at nearly £10 million.

Consumer price indices

Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would update the table published in answer to Geoffrey Pattie on 12 December concerning the cumulative increases in consumer price indices to show the latest available figures.

Mr Maclennan answered that increases between September and December 1977, which updated the table of cumulative increases in consumer price indices, published in *Trade and Industry* on 23 December were as follows:

	Changes in consumer price indices September-December 1977 per cent change
Belgium	+1.0
Denmark	+4.7
France	+1.4
Germany (FDR)	+0.5
Ireland	+1.7 [1]
Italy	+3.6 [2]
Luxembourg	+0.7
Netherlands	+0.6
United Kingdom	+1.4
Canada	+2.3
Japan	−1.0
USA	+1.1

[1] August to November. [2] Estimate. Source: OECD.

Mail-order statistics

Cranley Onslow (Woking) asked the Secretary of Trade what action he had taken to ensure that his department's mail order trading statistics were more reliable in future.

Mr Meacher said that replies received to the monthly retail sales inquiry had always been subject to a number of credibility checks in order to ensure reliability as far as possible. Additional checks for large contributions had now been instituted which would more readily identify the particular type of reporting errors which occurred with respect to mail-order firms in 1977. It was however never possible to be completely certain of discovering all reporting errors made by contributors.

Incentives in special development areas

Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would list the various statutory inducements his department could make available to firms locating in special development areas.

Mr Cryer said that the incentives in special development areas were regional development grants of 22 per cent towards the cost of qualifying expenditure on buildings, works, plant and machinery; regional selective assistance, including grants towards removal expenses for projects moving from outside the assisted areas; assistance for new service industry projects with a genuine choice of location; and, in appropriate cases, government factories with an initial rent-free period. In Scotland and Wales, factories were provided by the Scottish and Welsh development agencies respectively.

Wednesday, 8 March

European science and technology

Ian Lloyd (Havant and Waterloo) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he supported the research priorities outlined in the European communities science and technical committee report to the European commission and council on research and development within the community in 1978 and 1979.

Mr Huckfield replied that the government considered that the European communities should adopt a selective approach to science and technology, concentrating effort on a limited number of carefully chosen research and development projects. In its view the Crest committee was right to recommend that attention be confined to certain sectors in 1978-79. It regarded the proposed priorities as a useful preliminary to the case-by-case consideration of individual project proposals.

European regional development fund

Robert Hicks (Bodmin) asked what assistance companies located in the south west assisted area had received from the European regional development fund in each year since its inception.

Mr Cryer answered that the European commission agreed to contribute £356,120 in 1975 and £155,381 in 1976 from the European regional development fund towards the cost of national regional assistance to industrial projects in the south west assisted area.

Ferrous and non-ferrous foundry scheme

Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked how many companies in Scotland had applied for, and how many had received, aid under the ferrous and non-ferrous foundry scheme; and what was the total amount of aid given.

Mr Cryer said that applications from and offers to companies in Scotland under the ferrous (closed for applications on 31 December 1976) and non-ferrous foundry (closes for applications on 31 July 1978) schemes were as follows:

	Applications	Offers to date	Value of offers (£ million)
Ferrous foundry scheme	40	33	6.6
Non-ferrous foundry scheme	6	1	0.1

ECSC grants for BSC

Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint) asked what recent European Coal and Steel Community grants had been made to the British Steel Corporation as a contribution to the British Steel Corporation's pioneering research into 'people at work'.

Mr Huckfield said that ECSC grants in support of research on human factors which was currently being carried out by the British Steel Corporation were expected to amount to about £0.4 million.

Import of yarn

Max Madden (Sowerby) asked what arrangements existed for import of yarn from Greece and Turkey, and other EEC associates; what representations had been made about such imports; and when the present arrangements with EEC associates were due for renegotiation.

Mr Meacher replied that UK imports of cotton yarn from Greece and Turkey were covered by assurances which the EEC had secured from representatives of the Greek and Turkish industries about the levels of their exports of a number of textile products to community markets in 1978. Egypt had agreed to voluntary restraint on exports of cotton yarn in 1978. Spain and Portugal had not agreed to voluntary restraint, but had been notified of levels for cotton yarn and certain other products which should be adhered to; both countries had been warned of safeguard action by the EEC should these levels be exceeded. These arrangements all applied to trade in 1978, but similar arrangements were envisaged for subsequent years. The government was aware of the industry's concern about imports from Turkey. This had been passed on to the European commission which was committed to ensuring that the various arrangements were respected.

Grant for Heart of England Tourist Board

Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what study he had made of the representations from the Heart of England Tourist Board indicating that although it was a particularly popular tourist area it received unequal treatment in terms of government grant, and that it was allocated smaller amounts for advertising than other parts of the country; and if he would take steps to redress the balance.

Mr Meacher said that he had considered these representations very carefully. He was not, however, prepared to divert the limited funds at present available for selective tourism project assistance (no more than £2 million for England in 1978-79) so as to aid other parts of the country at the expense of the development and special development areas when those areas anyway contained far more untapped tourist potential than could yet be exploited in existing budgets and which had in general a greater need for employment opportunities. It was the responsibility of the English tourist board to decide how it spent its advertising budget.

Retail price index

Arthur Lewis (Newham North West) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to what extent he estimated the retail price index and cost of living had or would rise as a result of the rise in the price of biscuits, cereals, cakes, cheese, custard, honey and lard, together with the price rise of 2225 foodstuffs since 1 January 1978. He also asked whether he was aware that during the month of January 1978 there were recorded increases in the price of biscuits, breakfast cereals, cakes, cheese, custard, honey, lard and 2232 other food items; whether he would give similar details for the month of February; and what action he had taken or intended taking to reduce the price of these and other foodstuffs in view of the fall in inflation.

Mr Maclennan replied that the annual increase in the retail food index was 7.1 per cent in January 1978, the lowest such figure since July 1972. Thus although the price of a number of food items had risen in recent months the rate of increase had fallen considerably. Details of increases in retail food prices between mid-January and mid-February would be available when the retail price index for February was published on 17 March. Particular price increases were a matter for the Price Commission.

House purchase fees

Walter Johnson (Derby South) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would take steps to limit the fees paid to estate agents, solicitors and surveyors where house purchase was concerned.

Mr Fraser answered that he saw no need to do so. The levels of fees charged by estate agents, solicitors and surveyors were subject to the provisions of the counter-inflation legislation.

Firework injuries

Tom Torney (Bradford South) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would now publish the firework injury statistics.

Mr Fraser replied that statistics were now available relating to persons who received treatment at hospitals in England, Scotland and Wales for injuries caused by fireworks during the period 16 October to 12 November 1977. There was an overall increase of 7 per cent in firework injuries treated by hospitals when compared with the previous year, attributable to a 61 per cent increase in injuries arising from incidents in the street. Nevertheless, the total was the second lowest since such records were first kept. Statistics for comparable periods in 1968 (1969 for Scotland), and 1973 show the considerable and gratifying reduction in fireworks injuries which had been achieved over this period:

England and Wales	1968	1973	1977
	2 537	1 186	709
Scotland	1969 [1]	1973	1977
	90	63	24

([1] First year records were kept).

In view of the increase in the number of injuries arising from the letting off of fireworks in the street, in contravention of the Explosives Act 1875, as amended, he proposed to consult the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what further practicable steps could be taken to reduce the incidence of these offences. Mr Faser added that he would circulate the 1977 statistics in the House of Common's official report, together with the figures for comparable periods in the four preceding years. Figures are available from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection's consumer safety unit.

Thursday, 9 March

Medium-speed diesel engines

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry about the manufacture in the United Kingdom under licence of medium-speed diesel engines of foreign design; the existing capacity in the United Kingdom to manufacture such engines for supplying the domestic market; whether any of the companies recently nationalised manufactured medium-speed diesel engines at the date they vested in British Shipbuilders; and whether British Shipbuilders would notify him if they extended their sphere of operations into the manufacture of medium-speed diesel engines under foreign licence.

Mr Huckfield replied that British Shipbuilders advised him that at vesting day certain of their wholly-owned subsidiaries were carrying on activities relating to medium-speed diesel engines, and that they did not consider that they required consent under section 3(1)(b) of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act 1977 to engage in that

business. British Shipbuilders' corporate plan would cover their activities in this field, and in considering it the secretary of state would take account of the effect of their operations on existing private sector manufacturers.

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry on the assumption that Hawthorn Leslie Engineering Ltd, G. Clark and NEM Ltd, Doxford Engines Ltd and Harland and Wolff Ltd manufacture medium-speed diesel engines, what was his estimate of the effect of their decision upon employment in existing manufacturers of such engines in the private sector.

Mr Huckfield said that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland was responsible for Harland and Wolff. British Shipbuilders informed him that the main reason for production of medium-speed diesel-engines by their subsidiaries was to meet customer requirements for foreign designs of engine which would otherwise be supplied from overseas. If that happened, no UK manufacturer of marine engines would benefit.

T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked whether either Harland and Wolff Ltd or Doxford Engines Ltd, which was excluded from the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act 1977, manufactured medium-speed diesel engines at the time the several shipbuilding companies listed in schedule 2 to the Act vested in British Shipbuilders.

Mr Huckfield replied that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland was responsible for Harland and Wolff. Doxford Engines Ltd, which came into the ownership of British Shipbuilders under the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act 1977 as a subsidiary of Sunderland Shipbuilders Ltd, was at that time carrying on certain activities relating to medium-speed diesel engines.

Aid for industrial estates

Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked what proportion of EEC regional development fund aid to the United Kingdom was spent on the development of industrial estates during 1976 and 1977, respectively; and if those projects could be listed.

Mr Cryer answered that in 1976 and 1977 about 20 per cent of all European regional development fund aid allocated to United Kingdom projects was related to industrial estate development and government advance factories. Details of projects financed from the fund were published in *Trade and Industry* on 6 February, 7 May, 23 July and 24 December 1976 and 21 January, 20 May, 22 July 1977 and 6 January 1978.

EEC assistance for advance factories

Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would list the advance factories built with the help of the EEC regional development fund in the United Kingdom during 1977; and if he would give estimates of the likely assistance from this source in 1978 in terms of numbers of factories.

Mr Cryer said that in December 1976 and January 1977, the European commission agreed to contribute from the European regional development fund a total of £4.2 million towards the cost of 129 United Kingdom government advance factories to be built in 1977. Lists of these projects were published in *Trade and Industry* on 24 December 1976 and 21 January 1977. It had not yet been decided whether to seek fund assistance for such projects in 1978.

Retail price index

Arthur Lewis (Newham North West) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection whether and to what extent he expected the retail price index and cost of living to rise as a result of the proposed and actual increases in bread, biscuits, beer and rail fares.

Mr Maclennan replied that actual rises in rail fares in January 1978 increased the RPI by about a twelfth of one per cent. At this stage no precise estimate of the eventual effect on the RPI of proposed increases for beer, bread and biscuits is available.

Mechanical engineering statistics

Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked what had been the percentage increase in new export orders for the mechanical engineering industry in each quarter since 1963; what had been the percentage change in relative export prices for manufactures; what was the estimated time-lag between the change in price and the change in orders; and what was the degree of correlation between the two.

He also asked what had been the percentage increase in new export orders for the mechanical engineering industry in each quarter since 1963; what had been the corresponding increase in world trade in manufactures; and what was the degree of correlation between the two.

Mr Cryer said that the figures so far available on a consistent basis were shown in the table from 1970. They were subject to revision, especially those for new orders. Price movements were not the only determinants of changes in new orders and no significant correlation or fixed time lag had been found between the percentage changes in prices and in new orders. A positive correlation of 0.34 was found between the figures in columns 1 and 3 of the table, suggesting a moderate statistical association (but not necessarily a causal one) between quarterly percentage changes in world trade in manufactures and in new export orders received.

Period		percentage change on previous quarter in: New export orders for mechanical engineering (1)	Relative export prices for manufactures (2)	Export of manufactures by main manufacturing countries (3)
1970	2nd qtr	−12	0	+3
	3rd qtr	−10	+1	0
	4th qtr	+11	+1	+4
1971	1st qtr	−4	+1	+2
	2nd qtr	−10	0	0
	3rd qtr	−5	+1	+5
	4th qtr	−1	+2	−4
1972	1st qtr	+32	+1	+5
	2nd qtr	−22	0	0
	3rd qtr	+4	−4	0
	4th qtr	+22	−4	+9
1973	1st qtr	+5	0	+3
	2nd qtr	+19	0	0
	3rd qtr	+9	−7	+4
	4th qtr	+1	0	+4
1974	1st qtr	+4	+1	+4
	2nd qtr	−13	+2	+1
	3rd qtr	−27	0	+2
	4th qtr	+12	0	−1
1975	1st qtr	0	0	−7
	2nd qtr	−17	+2	−1
	3rd qtr	−8	+1	+1
	4th qtr	+10	+1	+6
1976	1st qtr	+12	+2	+3
p	2nd qtr	−7	−5	+1
	3rd qtr	+7	+1	+2
	4th qtr	+28	−5	+2
1977	1st qtr	−3	+7	0
p	2nd qtr	+1	+1	−1
	3rd qtr	−14	na	+2

na: not available, p: provisional

Friday, 10 March

Cosmetic products

Joyce Butler (Haringey, Wood Green) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would delay the making of regulations for cosmetic products in implementation of the council directive of the European Communities in order to provide adequate time for wider consultation with experts in toxicology about substances used in hair dyes for which there was good evidence of carcinogenicity.

Mr Fraser said that he did not consider that there was any justification for delaying the making of these regulations and he intended to make them as soon as possible. This would not prevent further action being taken subsequently, if necessary, to stop the use of any uncontrolled substances which, after full consideration of available evidence, were considered to be harmful. Furthermore, the regulations would, among other things, require cosmetic products not to be liable to cause damage to health in normal use.

Concrete cartels

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if he would publish the current number of registered ready-mixed concrete cartels registered with the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Fraser said the number was 148.

Walsall shoppers' shop

Bruce George (Walsall South) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection in view of the decision of Walsall Council on 6 March, if he would now transfer the 100 per cent grant allocation for running the 'shoppers' shop' to the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Mr Fraser replied yes and that his department was making £5,000 available to allow the west Midlands office of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux to re-establish a 'shoppers' shop' in Walsall.

Requirements boards

Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked the Secretary of State for Industry how, in view of his recent statement that it was not practical or desirable for requirements boards to conduct market surveys of individual proposals submitted to them, these boards made assessments of the market value of proposals put before them for funding.

Mr Huckfield said that the market potential represented a major aspect on which information was requested in proposals from all applicants to the boards. It played a major part in the discussions preceding a decision and market survey evidence supplied by the applicant would always strengthen a case. Board members used their background knowledge to judge the quality and width of the survey before assessing the value of the proposals.

Gatt safeguard provisions

Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked what changes the government wished to see made to the safeguard provisions under article XIX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; with what trading problems these changes were intended to deal.

Mr Meacher said the government wished to see a general international understanding that, where market disruption was caused by imports from particular supplying countries, it was appropriate, and less restrictive of world trade generally, to limit any safeguard measures under article XIX to imports from those countries. The EEC was seeking an understanding in this sense in the current Gatt multilateral trade negotiations.

Trade deficit with FRG

Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked what the trading deficit in manufactures with the Federal German Republic had been during the past three months at an annual rate; and what representations he had made to the EEC Commission to request West Germany to correct this imbalance.

Mr Meacher replied that the UK's crude trade deficit in manufactures with the Federal German Republic in the three months ended January 1978 was £1,636 million, at an annual rate (based on non-seasonally adjusted data). No representations had been made to the EEC Commission regarding this deficit.

Prohibition of imports

Arthur Lewis (Newham North West) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether there were any restrictions within the Common Market rules and regulations to prevent him from prohibiting on the grounds of cruelty the import of liver pâté produced by the forced feeding of geese.

Mr Meacher replied that article 30 of the treaty of Rome prohibited quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect between member states, but article 36 provided exceptions to this general rule where restrictions on imports were justified on grounds of public morality or public policy on the protection of health and life of humans or animals. The EEC commission had however expressed the opinion that the article might not be invoked as justification for restrictions on the importation of animals solely because, in the opinion of the importing state, they had been subjected to cruelty in another member state. Whether or not this view was sustainable was for consideration.

Transatlantic air fares

Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked the Secretary of State for Trade why he believed it to be in the interest of passengers to require transatlantic operation of scheduled services to charge more than the fares acceptable to the United States government; and, in particular, why he objected to the lower fares proposed by Braniff Airlines.

Mr Clinton Davis said that the Bermuda 2 agreement, signed on 23 July 1977, provided that fares must be approved by both the US and UK governments and not unilaterally imposed by one party on the other. The government had supported low-cost fares on an experimental basis on the London–New York route but believed – as did the US government – that their effects should be examined before any more general application was considered. These experimental fares had been available for merely five months and the US authorities had permitted Skytrain to operate only on a 12 month trial basis. The government believed that it was imperative to ensure that airlines profitability was not so adversely affected as to impair long-term considerations of efficiency, safety and the ability to invest in new and quieter aircraft, these considerations being of vital importance to the consumer as well as those interested in the well-being of the airline industry.

Overseas trade news

UK firms make presentations to Arbed

On 1 and 2 March representatives of seven British manufacturers of equipment for the steel industry gave presentations to senior engineers of Arbed, the privately-owned Luxembourg-based steel makers, the fifth largest steel producers in western Europe, at its Esch works.

The seven firms were, Bronx Engineering, Wellman Engineering, Stein Atkinson Stordy, Adamson Butterly, Herbert Morris, the Wellman Cranes division of Clarke Chapman and Hudson Forge – represented by its local agents Oryx.

The presentations were made on the initiative of the senior management of Arbed who had expressed the hope that there could be wider and more frequent contact between Arbed and British firms in the steel industry. Despite the recession Arbed has a continuing investment programme.

The format of a combined presentation over a two-day period made it easier to assemble Arbed engineers from different divisions, though each presentation was done separately. They were all conducted in English.

There were also opportunities for useful informal contact both at Arbed and at the British embassy who helped with the organisational arrangements.

Invitations to the firms to participate were handled by the capital goods sub-committee for the European Trade Committee, a British Overseas Trade Board's advisory group, in the light of areas of priority interest previously indicated by Arbed. Considerable interest was shown by the Arbed engineers who attended the presentations and, although no immediate orders are likely, the UK participants agreed that it had proved a useful opportunity to inform Arbed of their companies' capabilities. Further presentations of a similar kind might be made in the future.

Bronx Engineering, one of the firms which participated in the presentation, is preparing to send a roller-type section straightening machine out to Arbed at the end of the month. The contract is worth £1 million. At present the machine, which weighs a total of 560 tonnes, is being stripped before shipment.

Special products group presents the mechanical ox

Primarily designed for use in third world countries the 'mechanical ox' has resulted in an initial £100,000 order for Barfords of Belton Ltd, Lincs, part of the Leyland special products group. The idea was to produce a 'basic' mini-tractor that would do anything – or almost anything – an ox could do. The complete vehicle is to be known as the 'Buffalo', costing £1,550 (net) ex-works. The Buffalo is powered by a 10½ hp Lister single cylinder, air-cooled diesel engine, driving through a three-speed gearbox. Top speed is 11 mph. It is 7 ft 9 in in length and 4 ft 4 in wide, and weighs 1764 lb. Fuel consumption is half a gallon an hour.

Sponsors wanted for UK programmes on US tv

Sponsors are being sought by the British consulate-general in Los Angeles for a series of 13 half-hour programmes on a local commercial television station, designed to bring Britain into focus by showing developments in British industry and technology as well as to give a picture of contemporary Britain and its way of life.

Sponsors are invited to buy commercial time in multiples of 30 seconds up to a maximum of six minutes per half hour. The total all-inclusive cost of a half-hour programme is $3,500. Sponsorship can be for a complete programme (up to six minutes of commercials) or for half a programme (up to 3 minutes of commercials) for $1,750. There may be options available in a few cases for 30 seconds or one minute commercials at $350 and $700 respectively, possibly for the 13 week run, depending on other sponsors' requirements.

The format is that of the interview type 'talk show'. A local host and visiting British experts and business people discuss the topic of the week accompanied by film clips, slide projections, videotapes and other visual material. The programmes are scheduled to be shown later this year.

Companies and others interested in sponsoring are asked to inform the consulate-general in Los Angeles as soon as possible of their interest by telex, 677421 A/B Britain LSA, or by telephoning John Houlton on 010 1213 385 7381). It would also be helpful if interested sponsors would advise the Department of Trade, CRE 2, 01-215 5327 or 01-215 3364, who can also offer additional advice and information.

Meacher visits UK firms at Cairo trade fair

On 15 March Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, visited British firms exhibiting at the Cairo international trade fair which is being held from 11 to 25 March. Goods from over 40 British firms are on display in a British pavilion organised by the British Overseas Trade Board.

This is the third consecutive year that a British pavilion has been arranged at this fair – and the number of firms represented has increased each time. This year there was a waiting list for space in the pavilion which has a total stand area of 2600 m^2 including an outside site for large machinery.

Among the British exhibits on display are scaffolding systems, seat belts, excavators, transfer printing machinery, pneumatic and electrical power tools, tractors, welding and cutting equipment, power transformers and cranes.

In 1977 British exports to Egypt totalled £190.5 million.

Setting up office in Japan

'Your Own Man in Japan' is the title of a seminar outlining the advantages of setting up an office in Japan which will be held on 25 April. Jointly sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Confederation of British Industry, the seminar will be held in the CBI council chamber, Tothill Street, London.

Speakers will include Roderick Mullan, a partner of Price Waterhouse and Co in Japan and Ben Thorne, commercial counsellor at the British embassy, Tokyo. Roger Allen, managing director, BSR Ltd and Frank Martin, overseas operations officer, Unilever Ltd, will present case studies of their company's successes in Japan. There will also be a brains trust which will include other experts on the Japanese market.

Sir John Read, chairman of the EMI group

and a member of BOTB will be the chairman and Mr T. Kato, ambassador of Japan in London, will be the guest speaker at the lunch.

The fee for the seminar, documentation and lunch will be £40 plus VAT. Further details are available from Caroline Coates, Exports to Japan Unit, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757.

South Yorkshire sells to Japan

Over 80 firms attended a seminar 'South Yorkshire Sells to Japan' in Sheffield on 14 March. The Japan task force and the South Yorkshire County Council were joint sponsors of the seminar.

John Field, British Overseas Trade Board's special adviser on Japan, speaking on Japan as an export market said that British exports to Japan rose by an encouraging 31 per cent in value last year to a new record of £469 million. Machinery and transport equipment sales were 47 per cent greater in value than in 1976.

Two speakers with first hand knowledge of doing business in Japan presented case studies – John Schofield of Stablex Ltd, London, manufacturers of environmental engineering equipment, and Arthur Moore, of Hotwork Development Ltd, Dewsbury, manufacturers of heating equipment. There was also a brains trust which included the speakers and other British and Japanese business representatives.

Professor Geoffrey Bownas, director of the Centre for Japanese Studies at Sheffield University and a member of the Japan Trade Advisory Group, was the chairman of the seminar.

The Japan task force was established in November 1976. Its members include representatives from the British Overseas Trade Board, the Japanese embassy, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in London, the Japan External Trade Organisation, and the CBI. The aim of the task force is to strengthen co-operation between the Japanese business community in Britain and British industry and commerce, so as to promote the expansion of British exports to Japan – including co-operation in third markets.

'Talk-in Japan' seminar held at London chamber

Over 100 delegates attended a seminar – 'Talk-in Japan' – on 8 March at the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The seminar, organised by the British Overseas Trade Board's Exports to Japan Unit in conjunction with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was chaired by Derek Gorton, chairman of the Japan section, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the speakers included John Field, head of the BOTB's Exports to Japan Unit; Tadao Kato, ambassador of Japan; and John Cotton, International Marketing Co-ordinator, Cadbury Schweppes Ltd.

John Field is pictured speaking at the seminar with (from left to right) Mr Kato, Mr Gorton and Diane Wright, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Japan section.

ECGD guarantees dollar loans to Yugoslavia . . .

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed the repayment and funding for two loans to Privredna Banka Zagreb. One loan of $51 million has been arranged by Lazard Brothers and Co Ltd and the other loan of $23 million has been arranged by Morgan Grenfell and Co Ltd. Both banks are acting on their own behalf and for a syndicate of banks.

The loans will help finance UK contracts awarded by Ina Petrokemija of Yugoslavia for the Kutina fertiliser complex 50 miles south-east of Zagreb.

The Lazards loan has been made to help finance a contract awarded to Davy Powergas Ltd for supply of equipment, erection and commissioning for the five plants at Kutina; these plants, due for commissioning in early 1982, will produce such chemicals as phosphoric, sulphuric and nitric acids and ammonium nitrate.

The loan arranged by Morgan Grenfell will help finance contracts awarded to UK suppliers for services and equipment for ammonia and urea plants and for the offsite facilities to be provided at the Kutina complex.

Pullman Kellogg Ltd has been appointed project manager for the whole Kutina complex.

. . . and $30m line of credit to Poland

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed the repayment and funding for a $30 million line of credit which Lloyds Bank Ltd, acting on behalf of Lloyds Bank International Ltd, has made available to Bank Handlowy w Warsawie SA of Poland.

The loan will help finance contracts awarded by Stalexport and other Polish buyers to UK manufacturers for finished and semi-finished steel products.

To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum value of $240,000 and be placed by 2 March 1979. Exporters will receive 85 per cent of the contract value from the loan; the remaining 15 per cent is payable from the buyers' own resources.

Exporters interested in this facility should contact Mr T. Anthony of ECGD tel. 01-606 6699 ext. 7574 or Mr J. Smith of Lloyds Bank Ltd tel. 01-626 1500 ext. 2497.

Trade mission to Libya planned

In conjunction with the British Overseas Trade Board the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is organising a trade mission to Libya, 22 to 29 September. The mission hopes to take advantage of a rapidly expanding market which offers scope for every sort of activity for British exporters.

Libya's development plan for 1976-80 has a budget of $4,222 million which is targeted at agriculture, industry, transport and communications and many other areas. Further information is available from Miranda Preston at the London chamber, tel. 01-248 4444 ext. 39.

Birmingham mission to Cyprus, Lebanon and Jordan

Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce is organising a trade mission to Cyprus, Lebanon and Jordan from 17 September to 1 October.

Both Cyprus and Lebanon have made remarkable strides towards economic recovery over the past year. British exports to Cyprus were 50 per cent higher in 1977 than in 1976 while exports to Lebanon were four times higher. Jordan has benefited greatly from the general increase in wealth of the Arabian peninsular and has ambitious development plans.

Participants in the missions will be eligible to receive a subvention from the British Overseas Trade Board of £185. Prospectus and application form for the mission are available

from Graham Ashmore at the Chamber, 75 Harborne Road, Birmingham B15 3DH, tel. 021-454 6171 ext. 203.

Further information from: Graham Ashmore, Overseas Department, tel. 021-454 6171 ext. 203, or Lindsay Ward-Jones, Press Officer, tel. 021-454 6171 ext. 267.

Export Year impetus to be maintained

Humberside, which had one of the best Export Year records of any area in the UK, is to carry on the impetus of the campaign with Export United.

The 40 local firms involved in the campaign represented a larger proportion of exporting companies than took part in most other areas, and Humberside initiated a number of activities which were followed in other parts of Britain.

The local Export Year co-ordinating committee has decided to carry on its work under the Export United banner, and hopes to attract more members from organisations representing manufacturing industries. It is also seeking increased TUC involvement to match the enthusiasm shown during Export Year by trade union members working for participating companies.

The committee will also consider ways of bringing together established exporters and companies with an exportable product which has not been made available in overseas markets, so that they may share the exporter's expertise.

Replies to an Export Year questionnaire compiled by the committee showed that the response to the campaign and the results it has achieved were most encouraging.

Forecasting conference to be held in Madrid

Technological forecasting division of the European Association of Industrial Marketing Research will be holding its seventh international conference in Madrid from 29 to 31 March, at the Hotel Luz Palacio.

The meeting will concentrate on the issues involved in the selection of research programmes, covering such topics as practical experience with technological forecasting, the impact of social and political influence through technology assessment practices, the role of the university and the management of innovation.

The meeting has the patronage of the Spanish government in the person of several prominent ministers and top officials, and an international group of practitioners of the methodologies being discussed are the speakers. Simultaneous translation into Spanish and English is being provided. Further inquiries to Dr Angelo Arccocha, technical director, Tecnicas Reunidas SA Arapiles 14, Madrid 15.

New editions of 'Hints to business men'

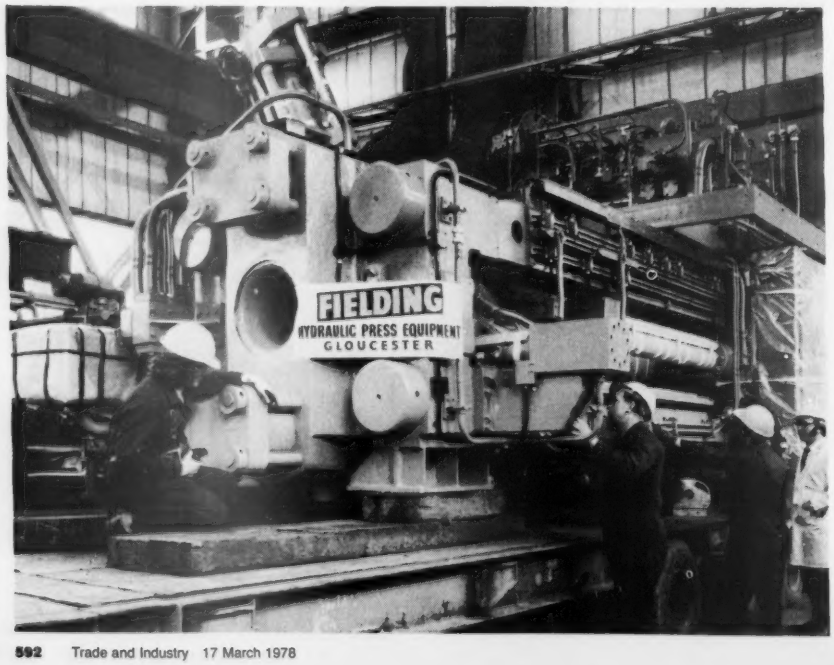
Revised editions of the booklets on Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, and the Sultanate of Oman have been published in the *Hints to business men* series. British business men who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D 05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7145/6, or any regional office of the Department of Industry.

UK business equipment on show in Tokyo

British business and reproduction equipment was promoted recently in Tokyo at the British Export Marketing Centre where nine companies exhibited with the backing of the British Overseas Trade Board. Here, the rotary collator of Watkiss Automation Ltd is being shown to a potential customer by Mr Watkiss.

Fielding's new press is Portugal-bound

Fielding and Platt is sending a 16 MegaNewton aluminium extrusion press weighing 80 tonnes to Portugal. The press, the major part of an order worth around £500,000, is the first of Fielding's new series two design to be sold overseas. The Portuguese customer is Extrusal Compahnia Portuguesa de Extrusao, of Aviero.



Re-opening of 1977 tariff quota 2745 – certain coated paper and board

Inquiries by HM Customs and Excise have established that the 1977 tariff quota for coated paper and board, other than coated printing paper, then of tariff subheading 48.07B (now 48.07C) imported from Switzerland (serial no. 2745) was incorrectly exhausted on 11 May 1977. The department is, therefore, re-opening this quota with an initial amount of 166 762 kg.

Retrospective claims relating to goods entered to home use or free circulation on entries or free circulation warrants presented on or after 11 May 1977 should be sent direct to the Central Tariff Quota Unit, HM Customs and Excise, Room 260, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE quoting the port of importation, or name and address of warehouse, name of ship and date of report, entry or free circulation warrant number and date, entered quantity (kg).

These claims must be submitted to the Quota Unit by 30 April 1978. Allocation of the quota will be effected as soon as possible after this date.

ECGD statutory return

The Export Guarantees Act 1975 as amended is the principal legislation under which the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) operates. In insuring new UK investment overseas against certain non-commercial risks it operates under the Overseas Investment and Export Guarantees Act 1972. The report to end December 1977, below, lists commitments under the 1975 act as amended, and under the 1972 act.

COMMITMENTS UNDER THE EXPORT GUARANTEES ACT 1975 AS AMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE, TRADE AND AID ACT 1977

New guarantees and liabilities in quarter ended 31 December 1977

The aggregate amount of new guarantees issued involving sterling liabilities under the 1975 act amounted to: £729 million under section 1, £516 million under section 2(1); and the aggregate amount of new liabilities incurred under section 5 of the act was £ nil: a total of £1,245 million.

The aggregate amount of new guarantees involving foreign currency liabilities amounted to: SDR 138 million under section 1 and SDR 185 million under section 2(1); a total of SDR 323 million.

These represent ECGD's maximum liabilities under new guarantees issued during the quarter. The continuing validity of many guarantees issued prior to the quarter is not reflected here, but is covered in the liabilities totals below.

Amounts recorded against ECGD's statutory limits as at 31 December 1977

Total outstanding sums recorded against the sterling limit of £25,000 million under section 6 amounted to £19,996 million.

The following items are taken into account:

1 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 1 – £12,296 million.
2 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 2(1) – £5,631 million.
3 Amount of principal monies due under arrangements made under section 2(2) nil.
4 Amount of principal monies outstanding in respect of loans made under section 3(1) – £2,170 million.
5 Sums paid in respect of securities acquired and for the time being held under section 4 – £153 million.
6 Liabilities in respect of arrangements made under section 5 – £43 million.

The aggregate of 1 to 6 above will exceed the total liability to the extent that guarantees to banks may have been given under a different section from the related credit insurance guarantees.

Total outstanding sums recorded against the SDR limit of 10 000 million SDR under section 6 amounted, after revaluation, to SDR 728 million.

The following items are taken into account:

1 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 1 – SDR 224 million.
2 Liabilities in respect of guarantees under section 2(1) – SDR 504 million.
3 Amount of principal monies due under arrangements made under section 2(2) – nil.

Notes

Guarantees are given under section 1 after consultation with the Export Guarantees Advisory Council. Guarantees under section 2(1) are those given in the national interest.

Section 2(2) enables ECGD to provide financial facilities (eg to make payments to match foreign competition on unusual credit terms and to enter into foreign currency loans should the need arise).

Section 3(1) enables ECGD to refinance banks which make finance available on special fixed interest rates for exports sold on credit terms of two years or more.

Section 4 enables ECGD to make finance available to acquire, hold and dispose of securities. This was used to provide aid loans before this function was transferred to the Ministry of Overseas Development.

Section 5 enables ECGD to give cost escalation cover.

OVERSEAS INVESTMENT AND EXPORT GUARANTEES ACT 1972

Liabilities in quarter ended 31 December 1977

During the quarter the aggregate amount of liabilities incurred was £2.4 million. This represents ECGD's maximum liabilities under agreements entered into during the quarter.

Amounts recorded against ECGD's statutory limit as at 31 December 1977

Total outstanding sums recorded against the limit of £250 million under section 2(4) of the 1972 act amounted to £67 million.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1669: China supplementary cotton cloth quota for fusible interlining manufactures

Notice to importers 1654, *Trade and Industry*, 20 January 1978, set out the provisional 1978 levels for imports of restricted goods from the state trading area, including China.

Following further discussions within the EEC it is now envisaged that the final arrangements for imports into the UK from China may make provision for a supplementary quota for cotton cloth falling within tariff heading 55.09 exclusively for use in the manufacture in the UK of woven cotton fusible interlinings for the clothing industry. Only firms who are currently responsible for the manufacture in the UK, and the marketing, of such woven cotton fusible interlinings would be considered for an allocation from such a supplementary quota.

Firms who consider themselves eligible and who would wish to be considered for an allocation from such a quota are invited to submit to Chemicals and Textiles Division of the Department of Industry, at the London address shown at the end of this notice, applications on form ILB/A, to arrive not later than 7 April 1978. Applications should be accompanied by a statement showing separately the applicant's past sales to the UK market; to other EEC markets; and to non-EEC markets, of UK-produced woven cotton fusible interlinings for the years 1975, 1976 and 1977, supported by a report by a qualified, practising, independent accountant, as set out in the annex to this notice.

Applicants should also submit the address and trading name (if different from their own name) of the establishment(s) in which the imported cloth will be finished, coated or otherwise processed. Where such processing of the cloth is to be undertaken by companies other than the applicant, acting on commission, this should be stated together with the names and full addresses of these companies. Applications would be considered on their merits by CT Division and applicants would be notified as to whether or not they qualified for an allocation from such a quota.

It should be noted that firms who did qualify for an allocation would be required to sign undertakings to maintain their purchases of UK-produced cotton cloth at a level not less than that which obtained in 1977 and to submit to CT Manchester, at the address shown at the end of this notice, quarterly statistical returns of cloth imported under the supplementary quota and of resultant production and sales of interlinings. Pro formae for this purpose are available from CT Manchester. Firms would also be required to submit their production and trading records to periodic inspection by Department of Industry officials.

Inquiries: London Chemicals and Textiles Division, CT Division 3, Department of Industry, Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6RB, tel. 01-212 0215 or 0581, Manchester – Chemicals and Textiles Division, Department of Industry, Britannic Building, 60 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2FL, tel. 061-832 5541.

ANNEX

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION TO RECEIVE A LICENCE TO PERMIT IMPORTS DURING 1978 OF COTTON CLOTH FALLING WITHIN TARIFF HEADING 55.09, ORIGINATING IN CHINA AND TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE MANUFACTURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF FUSIBLE INTERLININGS FOR THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY (RELEVANT NOTICE TO IMPORTERS: NO. 1669)

IMPORTER'S STATEMENT

I/We declare that our sales in the years 1975, 1976 and 1977 of woven cotton fusible interlinings manufactured in the United Kingdom were as follows:

	1975	1976	1977
	(tonnes or m² – specify)		
(a) sales in the UK market			
(b) sales in other EEC markets			
(c) sales in non-EEC markets			

Date ..... Signed .....
Status .....
(Proprietor, Partner, Director or Secretary)
Name and address of firm .....
.....
.....
Name and telephone number for enquiries .....
.....

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

I/We have conferred with the officials and employees concerned in the compilation of the figures shown and have made such tests as I/We have considered necessary. I/We report that in my/our opinion, the figures are those required by the Department of Industry for the purpose of this application.

Date ..... Signed .....
Professional qualification .....
.....
Address .....
.....

1670: Certain interim textile quotas exhausted

Further to notice to importers 1649, *Trade and Industry*, 6 January 1978, Import Licensing Branch has now issued import licences up to the limits authorised under the transitional measures, for the following goods from the countries specified:

Category	Tariff heading	Description of goods	Country
5	ex 60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, slip-overs, twin-sets, cardigans, bed-jackets and jumpers	Pakistan
16	ex 61.01	Men's and boys' woven suits	Yugoslavia

No further import licences will be issued for these goods from the countries shown until such time as the relevant exporting authorities take over administration of their respective quotas.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 367.

Where independence pays

Like its predecessor which covered Brittany and the Loire Valley,[1] this final article in our series on the French market also concentrates on two of the lesser-known industrial centres of northern France – Normandy and the Champagne region. Melville Guest, first secretary (commercial) at the British embassy in Paris, explains why these two expanding regions, which are striving to throw off their economic dependence on Paris, should be taken seriously by British exporters.

Normandy's history has for long been closely interwoven with that of Britain. William the Conqueror, Joan of Arc and the Normandy landings are the best-known illustrations of this. It has been a turbulent relationship but one which has created many friends and a great awareness of things British. The Champagne region includes the city of Troyes where, once again, Joan of Arc was pitted against the English invaders and Reims, around which took place the great battle of the Marne in the last phase of the 1914-18 war in which many British soldiers died.

Normandy is divided administratively into two regions, Lower Normandy comprising the departments of Calvados, Manche and the Orne, and Upper Normandy with the departments of the Eure and Seine Maritime. The combined population amounts to nearly 3 million. The area contains the important ports of Le Havre, Rouen and Dieppe and also Cherbourg, much smaller but, nevertheless, expanding. The construction of the tanker terminal at Antifer (near Le Havre) will doubtless lead to an expansion of the existing petrochemical industries.

Upper Normandy accounts for 35 per cent of total oil refining operations in France, 23 per cent of phosphate fertilisers, 21 per cent of paper pulp and 13 per cent of pressure casting. At the moment there is some slack in the paper, textile and public works sectors. Cattle raising occupies about one-third of the total area. There are over a million head of bovine livestock, a third of which are milch cows. Wheat, barley, maize and potatoes are grown on a large scale. Technology is a primary objective and a regular flow of some 15 000 students passes through the three departments concerned in the University of Rouen.

The Champagne region includes the departments of the Marne and Aube, with a combined population of 800 000. A prosperous, if rather sleepy, agricultural region before the last war, it has since adapted to the demands of industrialisation and urbanisation. Many Paris-based firms have set up plants in the region, especially around Reims. As a result, exports from the regions have a healthy balance over imports (eleventh place in the table of French exports – thirteenth in the import table).

Both this region and that of Upper Normandy are striving to throw off their economic dependence on Paris.

In Normandy the main industrial regions are Rouen, Le Havre, Chartres and Evreux but there are others worthy of attention. Orléans, a fast-growing centre, is in the Loir-et-Cher department. Industrial centres east of Paris are Reims, Chalons-sur-Marne and Troyes.

Industrial zones in Normandy

The jurisdiction of the chamber of commerce of Rouen covers a large area, extending to the coast at St Valéry and east to Neufchâtel and Gournay. It contains a number of industrial zones. Most important are the paper and paper-processing industries, chemicals (including ammonia and fertilisers), oil refining, textiles and clothing (the largest French shirt and sportswear manufacturer is situated at Rouen). The metallurgical sector, covering sheet metalworking, castings, seamless steel tubes, piping, structures for offshore oil and gas, metal packaging and drums, also plays an important part in the local economy. Finally, there are important manufacturers of teleprinters and other electro-mechanical equipment, electric motors, zip fasteners, electrical wires and cables and colourants.

The food industry is also important (milk-processing and cheese, chocolate and confectionery). Public works, civil engineering and industrial building and a large number of medium-sized firms in the engineering field complete the picture.

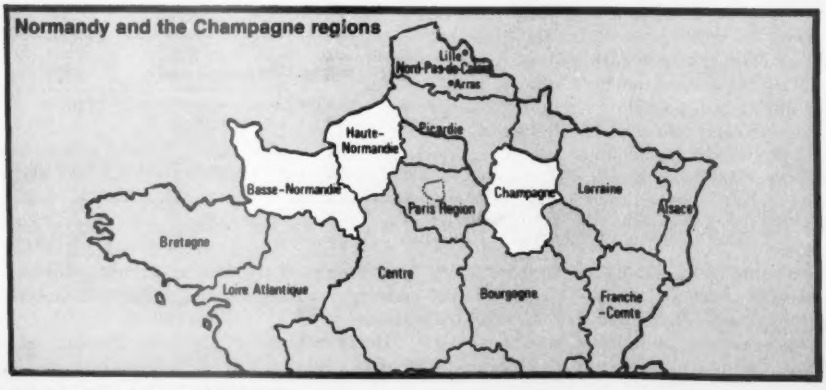
Rouen is France's fourth largest port, handling 16 million tonnes of merchandise including over 14 000 containers and comprising petroleum and petroleum products, phosphates, sulphur, vehicles, paper products, coal, wire, oil cake, timber and flour. Bell Lines last year established a container terminal at Tancarville, administered by the Port of Rouen. There are regular sailings between Rouen and the UK.

Le Havre is France's second largest port with a developing industrial hinterland, dominated by the oil industry, shipbuilding and ship repairs. The largest specialist paint contractor in France is also to be found there, and its electrical industry (switchgear, transformers, control panels, motors) is a large employer. Other leading manufacturers are those producing steel wire and cables, ferrous and non-ferrous castings, spare parts for cars, port cranes, machine tools, compressors, gas turbines, pumps, plastics and papermaking machinery, chemicals, glass for mirrors and pharmaceutical bottles, and nickel.

The port of Le Havre handles over 80 million tonnes of merchandise annually including chemicals, timber, fruit and vegetables, bulk, fluids and solids, transport equipment, engineering products, building materials, and electrical and marine equipment. Twinned with Southampton, its main trading partner, it receives more British goods than any other port in France. In the port area alone there are 50 different industrial plants (22 000 employees).

Main town of Lower Normandy is Caen, the centre of a rapidly expanding industrial region, mainly covering light industry but including long-established heavy industries such as vehicle manufacturers (Saviem and Citroën), steelworks at Mondeville and France's fourth largest central heating boilermaker. At Vire, 20 km away, is the second largest European manufacturer of cutlery and stainless-steel ware. Agriculture and cheese production, however, remains extremely important. Caen port can accommodate ships up to 18 000 tdw.

Cherbourg, in the Manche department, is the gateway to a prosperous dairy-farming area and is also its main industrial centre. Principal industrial activity is centred in the Arsenal and naval shipbuilding yard (mainly naval craft). France's most important offshore platform yard (UIE) is just outside Cherbourg. Other products are food and dairy machinery, clothing, electronic and telephonic



[1] *Trade and Industry*, 23 December 1977, page 642.

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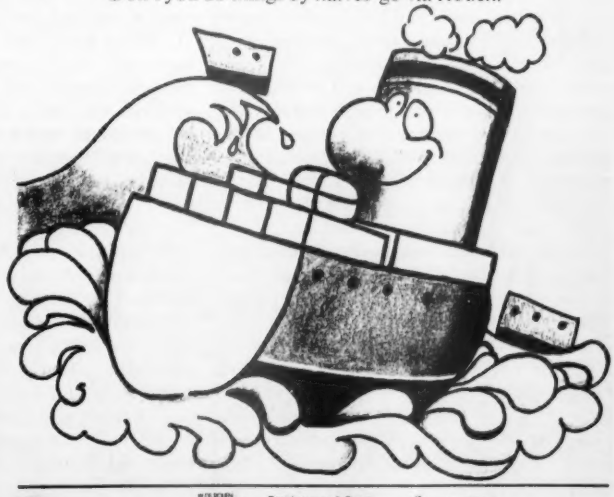

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equipment and pleasure boats. Port traffic is increasing, especially with Poole.

Dieppe is the second French port for the import of fruit. A number of important French manufacturers have set up in its industrial zone (Rouxmesnil-Bouteilles) such as Alpine Renault (sports cars), Chantiers de la Manche (shipbuilding), Nestlé, Ericsson, Vinco (metal office furniture), Allis Chalmers (castings foundry). And Dubigeon, the well-known shipbuilder, has a ship-repair yard there.

Chartres is the capital of the Eure et Loir, which adjoins the south of Normandy, and is the centre of the Beauce region – the granary of France. While industrial activity is concentrated in agriculture and its ancillary processing industries, there are many small and medium-sized firms producing agricultural machinery, machine tools, goods-handling, fire-fighting and electro-mechanical equipment. Alcan has a factory at Luce employing 500 people. The department has 13 industrial zones of which one is at Chartres and two at Dreux.

Evreux's population has doubled since the war and is now a commuter area. The largest employers of labour are building and public works companies followed by the electrical and electronic and telecommunications equipment.

Capital of the Loiret, Orléans, accounts for one-third of the central region's exports/imports. Based here are France's largest manufacturer of gas/electric cookers and water heaters, and large clothing, pharmaceutical, aeronautical parts and mechanical engineering firms. Orléans' population has almost doubled since 1962 and 75 per cent of the population of the department is employed in industry.

Other lesser important centres in the Normandy area are Elbeuf (textiles and chemicals) and Alençon where Moulinex has its headquarters.

Industrial zones in Champagne

Reims, capital of the Marne department, is also the third largest riverport in France. It has two industrial zones and local manufacturers include vehicle spare parts, railway components, telephone and lighting equipment, pharmaceuticals, steel wire and tubes, chemicals and textiles. Metallurgical and mechanical engineering represents 30 per cent of total industry in the area, but 80 per cent of all exports of the area are agricultural products. A number of German firms have selected the region as a platform for distribution.

Chalons-sur-Marne is the home of the préfecture of the Marne department and it also has an important army base. Principal industrial activity is concentrated on the production of steel tubes, industrial furnaces, welding rods, car components, spectacle lenses and metallic joinery. Most factories, however, have their head office in Paris. German and Swiss firms also use this area as a distribution base for such products as mechanical-handling equipment, chemicals, lorries and tractors and weighing equipment.

Capital of the Aube department, Troyes, is the traditional knitwear centre of France (25 000 employees). Other major industries include metallurgical/automobile and service industries.

Retail trade in the region east of Paris is largely handled through co-operatives and chain stores with the large stores taking second place. The wholesale trade registers a reasonable annual growth as does the metals import sector.

Communications

Normandy is linked to Britain by numerous daily sea and air services: car ferries travel regularly from Le Havre and Cherbourg to Southampton, and Dieppe to Newhaven; and regular air services are available from London to Caen, Cherbourg and Rouen, and from Gatwick to Dieppe.

Normandy also has a first-class road and rail network. Paris to Le Havre takes 1¾ hours. There is a regular air link between Reims and London. Reims is only 1½ hours by rail from Paris. The motorway from Paris to Strasbourg passes through Reims and Chalons and will eventually be linked up with the Calais–Dijon motorway.

Opportunities for UK firms

Recent visits by commercial officers in the two regions have revealed considerable interest in British products, many of which are already known. However, in both Troyes and Reims regrets were expressed that visits by British firms or their representatives were rare and that there was a lack of local agents.

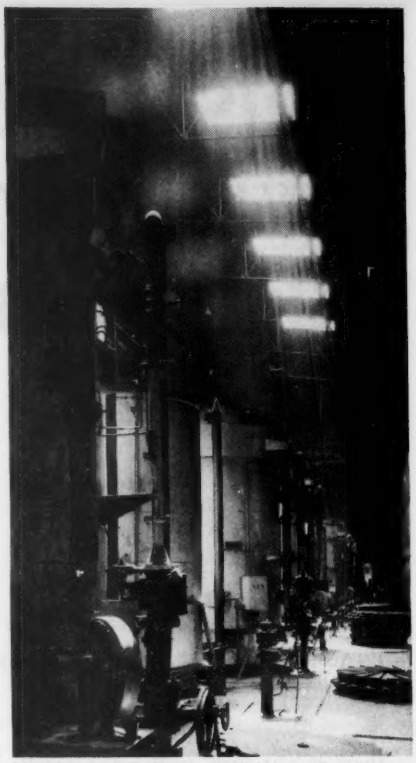
There are close links between the chambers of commerce of Southampton and Le Havre (which have jointly organised seminars and language courses) and those of Cherbourg and Poole. Devon is twinned with the Calvados department.

Normandy is already importing a variety of both capital and consumer products (one British firm has opened a hi-fi shop in Le Havre) including diesel engines and other equipment for ships, printing equipment (and inks), forgings, industrial fasteners, industrial electrical, welding and paper-converting equipment, mobile cranes, measuring instruments, paints and varnishes, steel tubes and sheet, duffle coats, food products, shetland wool, turntables for records, toys and leisure articles, caravans, carpets, and much else.

Obviously a large market exists for agricultural equipment, but also for port equipment (Le Havre has, in the past, purchased British tugs and cranes) such as fork-lift trucks, straddle carriers and mobile cranes. Recent inquiries have been received for components for pneumatic and hydraulic machinery, gas and electrical heating appliances, white household goods and kitchen furniture, fabrics for dresses and jeans and furniture, fish farming equipment.

In the Aube and Marne departments the textile sector offers a steady demand for dyeing machinery and dyestuffs, knitwear machinery, woven fabrics and yarn for knitwear, and tights for adults and children. The Reims chamber of commerce considers that there are opportunities for co-operation and exchanges in the fields of agricultural equipment (half the population of the Aube, for instance, is rural), small public works equipment, menswear, rubber car accessories, and whisky and beer (through some of the smaller champagne producers).

In the consumer field there is a vast market both in Normandy and the region east of Paris with a combined population of nearly 3 million. In Normandy there is obviously scope for pleasure boats and caravans. Caen has a very large purchasing agency for wholesale establishments, mainly food products (Promodes). In 1975 retail sales in the Eure et Loir alone amounted to 3 016 million francs and in the Loiret 4 778 million francs. The headquarters of a large chain (Familistere) dealing in food and hardware products is in Reims. Purchasing for the large well-known multiple stores is usually centred in Paris but a local manager can be persuaded to request a particular product which he feels may sell well.



Ventilators supplied by Colt International from its works at Chalons-sur-Marne at the factory of steel producers Laminoirs de Strasbourg.

British firms must be prepared on occasion to visit the works of Paris-based firms – in Evreux, Dreux, Rouen and Reims, for example – where often the engineer or local manager has the power of decision. Agents must also be persuaded to get out more into the provinces and look for business or to permit the appointment of local agents or sub-agents.

In Normandy, as in the Marne and Aube, investment is welcomed. A number of British firms have already either set up themselves or have acquired shares in French firms, covering such products as rubber and plastic window and door seals for cars, heat exchangers, pharmaceuticals, lighting fittings, paints and varnishes and zip fasteners. In Reims, a British firm has acquired an important local printer and there is the French subsidiary manufacturer of industrial ventilation and heating at Chalons.

Although British exports are penetrating these regions, their market share is small, especially in the departments of the Marne and Aube. While the French government's aim of persuading Paris-based firms to decentralise has met with mixed success, many of these firms have left greater Paris for these two nearby regions with their excellent communications with central Paris. Some British firms have had marked success in these expanding regions: others should be persuaded to follow their example.

Overseas trade exhibitions

Hong Kong – not a market to be ignored

From John Cole-Morgan, BOTB, in Hong Kong

As crowds packed the British industrial exhibition in Hong Kong last week the Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, was telling members of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce that the territory offered British businessmen opportunities 'which they would be foolish to ignore'. The Duke was in Hong Kong to open one of the biggest all-British exhibitions of industrial equipment ever staged in south-east Asia and the fourth of its kind to be organised by the board in Hong Kong during the last decade. An estimated 75 000 people visited the exhibition and orders taken by participants were calculated to be in excess of £800,000 with a further £2¾ million of likely follow-up business as a direct result of inquiries.

In his keynote speech the Duke said: 'Hong Kong is not just another far distant market with a population of only 4.5 million but an important and crucial one, not only in its own right, which being among the world's top 20 traders it undoubtedly is, but because of its very special position in regard to every market in south-east Asia we see it as a trade centre and shop window for goods from all over the world.' He thought more should be done to stimulate awareness of the potential of the market in which Britain has been involved in a number of major projects including the cross-harbour tunnel, the first stage of the mass transit railway and the equipping of power stations.

Hong Kong is, in fact, Britain's second largest export market in the Far East, behind Japan, but until last year Britain's share of the Hong Kong market had been slipping steadily for a number of years. In 1977 it was 4.5 per cent; food imports from China take the lion's share of the market.

The exhibition was held on the concourse of Kowloon railway station – the only venue big enough – and attracted 148 British manufacturers. It was widely heralded and well-reported by the Hong Kong media and was seen generally as an indication of Britain's continuing interest in the market. In its editorial on the day after the opening, the influential *South China Morning Post* sounded an encouraging note, saying 'British imports still enjoy a high reputation. Local consumers, however, increasingly show more concern about quality than marginal price differences. Countries like Japan and Germany have profited from this and there is no reason why, in spite of the recent strengthening of sterling Britain should not be able to recapture what it has lost in recent years to its competitors and build up a lead in the future.'

In his speech the Duke said that he had heard it suggested that British businessmen in general have tended to neglect Hong Kong because they greatly under-rate its sophistication. Any exhibitor who went with such a misapprehension would be quickly disillusioned by the number of luxury motor cars and the quality of clothes of many of Hong Kong's citizens.

Hong Kong had moved rapidly out of the world trade recession and has a reputation for increasingly high-quality goods. With its government's determination to diversify industry and to push its products up market as well as the ambitious building and civil engineering programmes, there is no shortage of scope for British industrial equipment. The products on show at the exhibition included metal-working machine tools, printing equipment, scientific and control instruments, building products, chemicals and paints as well as a variety of machines for the vast clothing industry.

Delegations from Manila, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur attended the exhibition at the invitation of BOTB and there were many individual visitors from throughout south east Asia including officials from trading organisations of Vietnam and China. One of the textile firms (Bentley Engineering) saw the event as an occasion for liaison with customers and distributors from as far away as New Zealand.

Business got off to a brisk start when within the first two hours of the show Austin Allen Ltd of Harold Wood, Essex sold five plastic injection moulding machines to a Hong Kong camera and lens manufacturer for £3,000 each. Like many other manfacturers Emi-Mec Ltd were also not long in selling the equipment on its stand, in its case two automated capstan lathes worth £30,000.

Several of the exhibitors were visiting the market for the first time but most of them already had established agents in the territory. Access Equipment Ltd, one of the first timers exhibiting its light-weight scaffolding platforms sold all the products off its stand and was delighted on arrival to find one of its scaffolding platforms being used on Kowloon station.

The RJ/48-28 gauge multi-purpose circular knitting machine on the Bentley Engineering group stand in Hong Kong.

Some of the manufacturers were introducing products designed specifically for the market. J. Blakeborough and Sons Ltd brought to the exhibition a water valve which could be used for sea water or fresh water applications designed for use in Hong Kong where water shortage has forced the authorities to use salt water for toilet flushing.

Even big companies like George Cohen Far East PTE Ltd were excited about the business it was doing. Brian Nightingale, general manager in Hong Kong, said that the company had taken significant orders with substantial numbers of machines, including the highly versatile M400 centre lathe, being sold off the stand.

Indeed, virtually all the firms at the exhibition were enthusiastic about the interest being shown in their products and there could have been few participants returning to Britain feeling that their journey had not been worthwhile.

The Duke of Kent (right) on the Kaymet company stand.

Successful UK presence at Frankfurt fair

From Sue Holmes, British consulate-general, Frankfurt

With a total of 192 exhibitors Britain again fielded the strongest non-German contingent at the sixtieth in the post-war series of Frankfurt international fairs, which took place from 26 February to 2 March.

Of the British firms participating, 167 took part in one or another of eight joint ventures (occupying about 3500 m²), sponsored jointly by the British Overseas Trade Board and trade and manufacturing associations. The Association of Musical Instruments Industries group – the largest with 65 exhibitors – displayed up-to-the-minute developments in the field of amplifiers, mixers, and discotheque equipment, along with traditional instruments and music publications. The British stands were thronged with visitors and very substantial orders were recorded. One firm alone booked orders worth £500,000 and several did business in excess of £100,000. Even the group of 14 newcomers to the Frankfurt fair came away with good orders.

For the 15 companies sponsored by the Piano Manufacturers' Association the Frankfurt fair has become the most important event of the year, a substantial proportion of the piano industry's exports being directly attributable to its participation. With some 2900 pianos sold at the fair, this group netted orders worth about £1,850,000, while one piano manufacturer reckoned that his post-fair business would top £1 million. While the bulk of British pianos (68 per cent of the total exports) are sold in the EEC market, one manufacturer booked a substantial order from a Japanese account.

Thirteen leading British pottery manufacturers participated under the umbrella of the British Ceramic Manufacturers' Federation and displayed selections of fine bone china, earthenware and porcelain tableware. Many had already enjoyed a very successful spring fair at Birmingham yet substantial business was again recorded at Frankfurt. One firm alone recorded orders worth £750,000, another company £550,000.

The three firms in the UK Cutlery and Silverware Association group booked a good volume of orders and were well satisfied with their participation.

The British Stationery and Office Products Federation was represented with 35 exhibitors, showing products ranging from greeting cards to art prints, writing instruments and Christmas tree decorations. Most exhibitors booked substantial orders, particularly from customers in third markets.

The Design Council again mounted one joint stand with 13 companies showing a fascinating and colourful range of novel goods. Quite a good volume of orders was booked and in many cases substantial post-fair business is expected.

Twenty-two companies, exhibiting in collaboration with the British Jewellery and Giftware Federation, displayed selections of fine metal products, silverware and cutlery, pottery and glassware, fashion jewellery and toiletries. The group included firms who have been attending the Frankfurt fairs for more than 20 years. Substantial orders were booked by several firms.

The British Art Metal Manufacturers' Export Group displayed one modest stand, a selection of fine brassware and copperware. Here again, despite a very successful participation in the recent Birmingham spring fair, very substantial orders from customers from all over the world were recorded.

British exhibitors in the eight joint-venture groups as well as the 25 independents were almost unanimous in rating their participations as one of the most successful methods of promoting exports and keeping in touch with their overseas markets.

Mr H. Lloyd, project engineer of Lloyds Instruments Ltd, shows a potential German customer, its latest electronic tuning aid, the Vista.

Biggest UK contingent yet at Cleveland show

From R. Gash, British consulate-general, Cleveland

Twelve British companies, sponsored by the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association in conjunction with the British Overseas Trade Board, took advantage of the annual gathering of thousands of research and development scientists at Cleveland and exhibited at the twenty-ninth Pittsburgh conference on analytical chemistry and applied spectroscopy, 27 February to 2 March.

This was the eleventh year in succession that the show had been held in Cleveland and although the emphasis was still on energy and environment, there was a definite trend towards automation with new applications, for instance, for microprocessors. This year the technical programme was 30 per cent and the exhibition 17 per cent larger than last year with an estimated $50 million worth of instruments on display. About 360 exhibitors took up 810 booths to show their instruments and tools and these included an estimated 400 new products never previously displayed or sold at this major international exposition of complex and costly equipment. British exhibitors were well to the fore with new products and services.

Malvern Instruments, joint winner in 1977 of the MacRobert Award for its Malvern correlator, was displaying a radical new laser instrument, a particle and droplet sizer known as the type ST1800, which has a wide range of industrial and research applications. Another company, Anaspec Ltd, was showing a research grade laser raman spectrometer which is claimed to be the most advanced system of its type ever produced. These items and a new fraction collector for routine or research purposes made by Electrothermal Engineering Ltd drew a great deal of attention from the visiting scientists and potential buyers.

One British company, Cathodeon Ltd, back at the show for the second time, reported sales in the United States last year of a quarter of a million dollars and this was attributed to a great extent to its presence at the 1977 show. Its deuterium lamps were again being well received and bigger and better sales are expected in 1978. Other companies which had previously exhibited at the 'Cleveburgh' show as it sometimes jokingly called, included Techne Cambridge Ltd which introduced a new water circulator; Biolab Ltd showing chromatography columns and variable bore fittings and valves; Kratos-AEI which invariably had an excellent display of instruments this year included the MS25 Mass Spectrometer and DS508 Data System; and Phase Separations Ltd which had a pictorial display of their products. Another company, Heyden and Son, although no strangers to the show, joined the joint venture-exhibit for the first time and again was impressed by the interest displayed in its exhibit which highlighted a wide range of scientific publications.

Three newcomers to the show, Johnson-Matthey Chemicals Ltd, which provides a wide range of high-purity inorganic compounds, Gordon-Keeble Ltd whose exhibit included disposal laboratory products, shakers and dispensers, and Silverson Machines Ltd which was displaying a comprehensive range of laboratory and industrial mixing machines, were all enthusiastic about the show and the calibre of inquiries being received on their stands.

There can be no doubt about the importance of this conference and exposition which attracts speakers, exhibitors and delegates from many parts of the world. It will be held in Cleveland again in the spring of 1979 and it is hoped the British contingent will be even larger than 1978. The 'repeat' exhibitors swear by the show as a means of marketing their products and, where applicable, supporting their agents and distributors. There is every indication that the British exhibitors in 1978 will be back again next year. With 671 speakers in 78 sessions at the conference, which is held in the same building as the show, the exhibitors have a captive audience.

Useful contacts made at Malmö fair

From L. Gumaelius, British consulate, Malmö

Britain's motor industry was this year represented at the Malmö motor show by 13 companies in a joint venture sponsored by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders

in conjunction with the British Overseas Trade Board. Six of these companies were showing high performance saloons, sports and rally cars and seven components, accessories and parts, oils and oil-coolers, electronic ignition systems, car-care products and rally jackets.

This annual event held from 18 to 26 February for the eleventh time, is still the largest of its kind in Scandinavia and the official attendance figure this year was 61 000. Of these, 11 000 were trade buyers and representatives.

On the car side the British contingent was represented by British Leyland, Aston Martin, Chrysler, Lotus Cars, Rolls-Royce and Vauxhall. British Leyland was again the largest single exhibitor and showed a Range Rover, Jaguar SJ6, Princess 1800 HLS, Mini, Allegro, competition Jaguar and also the new Rover which was not launched in Sweden until October last year but attracted a great deal of attention. Chrysler International displayed a Chrysler Avenger 1600 saloon, Avenger Station Wagon, Sunbeam 1300 SL and Sunbeam 1600 S. Lotus showed the Elite, the Eclat and Esprit, Rolls-Royce had a Silver Shadow II on display and Aston Martin showed their V8 manual saloon car. Vauxhall exhibited the Chevette GLS hatchback models together with the VX 490 and the Cavalier coupé which attracted much attention.

On the components and accessories side the group included Mamco Ltd (rally jackets and anoraks), Minilite Ltd (wheels and a display car) Mobelec Ltd (electronic ignition systems and related auto-accessories), W. J. Reynolds (Equipment) Ltd (hydrobutz high-pressure washer cleaners and Transonic (ultrasonic leak detectors), Serck Services Ltd (oil coolers and oil cooler kits), Astrali Accessories (Midlands) Ltd (steering wheels), and Alexander Duckham and Co Ltd (Duckham's Q motor oil).

All the cars were assembled on the ground floor in the main hall and the new adjacent hall of net 1400 m² was devoted to caravans. Accessories, components etc were displayed along the ground floor corridors and the basement was reserved for mainly motor cycles and accessories.

Foreign cars included models from Volvo, Saab, Volkswagen, BMV, Alfa Romeo, Ford, Opel, Chevrolet, Peugeot and Renault. A prototype formula I, a Renault from the Elf team, was also exhibited.

The exhibitors generally were pleased with the interest shown. One or two firms took substantial orders and useful contacts were made by most of them. No doubt the show has proved even this year to be the shop window needed for generating further business in Sweden.

First Basle Eurotunnel fair is a success for UK firms

From W. Powell, British consulate, Basle

Switzerland, which already possesses the world's longest railway tunnel and will have the longest road tunnel too by 1980, was the logical venue for the first ever Eurotunnel exhibition and conference, held from 28 February to 3 March in the halls of the Swiss industries fair, Basle. The exhibition focused on the planning, construction and maintenance of all types of tunnels, underground excavation and mining activities, and attracted over 3500 engineers, other specialists and purchasing authorities in Europe, United States, Middle and Far East.

Eurotunnel '78 was organised by the British company Access Exhibition Ltd of St Albans, (associated with Mack-Brooks Exhibitions Ltd, which has organised a series of specialist exhibitions in Basle and elsewhere in Europe). The exhibitors were 130 manufacturing companies, contractors and associated service organisations including a 16-strong contingent from the United Kingdom. They presented current and advanced products for hard-rock drilling and soft-ground excavating, tunnel lining, blasting-dust suppression and ventilation, and roof support systems. To judge from reports received at the close of the exhibition they left this new market place with useful contacts, inquiries and information unobtainable or difficult to root out in otherways.

One British firm, Spun Concrete Ltd, was delighted by new contacts made with Comecon countries. With two other British producers of concrete linings, C. V. Buchan (Concrete) Ltd and Charcon Tunnels Ltd, they found Eurotunnel a good opportunity to promote this British-developed system of lining tunnels among engineers on the continent and in Asia.

Marketing platform

Roy Seager, organising director for Eurotunnel, said the success of this first event confirmed its value as a marketing platform for the industry, and that Eurotunnel 1980 will take place in Basle from 16 to 20 September with an additional hall offering increased space.

Long-term sales plan at Manila forum

From C. Dale, British embassy, Manila

Dates for the naval forum were chosen deliberately to precede the visit by the RN task group 317.6 consisting of HMS *Tiger*, HMS *Rhyl*, HMS *Mohawk*, HMS *Cleopatra*, HMS *Zulu* and perhaps from the forum's point of view, the most important in terms of modernity – HMS *Amazon*.

At the forum, held from 15 to 16 February at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Manila, there were 27 companies of the British Marine Equipment Council represented, and 19 firms presented papers. These included papers on propulsion and weapon systems, design and consultancy services, auxiliary machinery, associated electronic and electrical and mechanical equipment.

Attendance at the forum was fair to good – better on the first than on the second day. Audiences for the presentations were small, but were attended by naval officers and their civilian counterparts in industry who were actively interested and whose position in their own spheres was important. And as is always the case, members of the BMEC made full use of their time in Manila to establish contacts with local businessmen and members of the armed forces.

The Philippine navy is small and to quote President Marcos, its fleet consists of ageing craft. Cash is not plentiful and the Philippines must purchase with care. Thus the forum was aimed at the long term. Nobody expects a rush to purchase, but all hope, with some justice that the forum will have put British marine equipment firmly on the Philippine map and laid the foundation for sales in the future.

The Ferranti stand at the Manila naval forum.

Overseas trade export successes

Middle East agreements for Rolls-Royce Gem engines . . .

Rolls-Royce has signed a contract worth over £100 million in connection with the supply of 750 Gem helicopter engines and spares to the Middle East.

Under the terms of the agreement with the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), which represents the interests of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, Rolls-Royce and the AOI have formed a joint company named Arab British Engine Co (Abeco) with a licence to manufacture Gem engines to power Westland Lynx helicopters, (see below).

Initial supplies of Gem engines will be from the Rolls-Royce aero division factory at Leavesden in Hertfordshire, with further supplies of components being provided as manufacture is established progressively at the Abeco factory situated at Helwan, some 18 miles south of Cairo.

Comprehensive training programmes for Abeco personnel will be undertaken in the UK. Rolls-Royce technical and managerial personnel will be seconded to the new joint company and will be situated in the Abeco factory in Helwan.

Further information: circle 479

. . . and Westland helicopters worth £55m

The Westland Lynx helicopters will be built in Egypt, following another agreement recently signed in Cairo. The initial order is for the sale of 50 Westland multi-role Lynx; the first 20 will be built at the Westland factory at Yeovil and the remainder will be assembled in Egypt. The total value of this initial contract which includes the provision of tools, materials and technical support is £55 million.

The agreement has been signed between Westland Helicopters Ltd and the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI) who have formed a joint company called the Arab British Helicopter Company. The capital for this company is US $30 million (£17 million) and the Westland shareholding is 30 per cent.

Further contracts

The Lynx helicopters to be manufactured under the new agreement will be supplied to the services of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, whose governments fund AOI. Further contracts will be signed which will lead to the manufacture of at least 230 helicopters in Egypt: these machines will incorporate a progressively increasing proportion of locally produced components. This programme will extend over about seven years.

Manufacturing experience

Lynx is a general purpose helicopter which will provide a very wide range of manufacturing experience in the Middle East.

Further information: circle 480

Weir to supply pumps for Korean drydock

Weir Pumps Ltd is to supply the complete pumping installation for a major drydock in the Republic of Korea under a contract valued at over £5 million. Equipment for the drydock will be manufactured at the company's Glasgow and Alloa plants.

The order is for the Korean Shipbuilding and Engineering Corporation and has been placed by Herbert Morris Ltd of Loughborough, which has won a $25 million contract and is the main contractor for a major part of an industrial complex, which includes the dockyard to be built at Okpo Bay, South Korea.

The main units to be supplied by Weir are four pumps, driven by 1250 hp, 11 kV induction motors. The company will also supply pumps and motors for dock stripping, underfloor drainage, ballast and fire-fighting, with associated valves and all switch gear, control gear, consoles and ventilation equipment.

The main pumps, which will be of the suspended axial-flow type with 152 cm discharge pipes, will discharge water into separate concrete culverts each arranged in the form of a syphon. A Weir solenoid-operated syphon-breaking valve incorporating a fail-safe system is connected to the soffit of each syphon crest. When the main pumps are not in use the valves admit air at atmospheric pressure and isolate the drydock from the sea. The Weir syphonic system eliminates the need for costly pump isolating and reflux valves, reduces maintenance costs and ensures ease of operation.

Further information: circle 481

Simon completes first Polish cornflake factory

Simon Food Engineers Ltd of Stockport (a Simon Engineering company) has just completed construction of the first cornflake production factory in Poland for Polimex-Cekop, the Polish Trading Organisation.

The contract was worth £786,000 and the factory is currently producing 2500 tons of cornflakes a year for Polish breakfast tables from maize grits. It is designed to allow for a future planned expansion to 5000 tons a year. Previously the Poles imported the breakfast cereal.

Simon carried out the design, specification and the process engineering for cooking, flaking and toasting through to final packaging into cartons. They were joined by Viota Foods Ltd of Bromborough, a member of the Robertson Food Group, which supplied additional know-how on the flaking process.

Further information: circle 482

Freepost reader service

For further information on items in this section, circle the corresponding number on the reader services page near the end of the magazine.

Navigational aids for Libya's international airport

Plessey Radar's airfield development group is engaged in a project valued at more than £1 million for the supply of comprehensive navigational aids and communications equipment system to Sebha international airport in south Libya.

This installation will comprise a Plan 17/18 instrument landing system to ICAO category II standard, a communications centre, radio transmitters and receivers, control tower consoles and ancillary equipment. Plessey will also be responsible for the planning, installation and commissioning of the system as part of an overall expansion and improvement programme.

The development programme for Sebha airport, commissioned by the Popular Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, is expected to be completed by the end of 1978.

This contract is a new venture in co-operation with Technoexportstroy of Bulgaria as the prime contractor responsible for the airfield development. Plessey forsees further significant business arising within such a co-operative framework in the field of airfield development projects overseas.

Further information: circle 483

Hunting wins contract for Madagascar airborne surveys

Hunting Geology and Geophysics Ltd of London, has been awarded a contract for airborne geophysical surveys for mineral and oil exploration in the Repoblika Demokratika Malagasy, by the newly established state organisation, Office Militaire National Pour les Industries Strategiques (Omnis).

Two areas have been flown, totalling over 10 000 line km of survey flying. One area in the Fort Dauphin region in the south of the island was surveyed for mineral exploration; the survey of the second area, in the Majunga region of the north west, had the objectives of determining magnetic basement structures and basement configuration to assist oil exploration.

Omnis has been created by the Malagasy government as part of its continuing plans to rationalise the mining industry, and it has been given specific responsibility for the exploration and production of chromite, uranium and oil. The airborne geophysical surveys made an important contribution to Omnis' detailed assessments of resources.

Hunting used a DC3 aircraft equipped with spectrometer and magnetometer, with analogue and digital recording and Doppler navigation. The data obtained was compiled and interpreted by Hunting technical personnel who carried out a progressive interpretation during flying operations in order to provide a rapid assessment of the results.

Further information: circle 484

Mirrlees diesels win £6m order from Zanzibar

Mirrlees Blackstone (Stockport) Ltd, a Hawker Siddeley company, has won an order from Zanzibar for 11 diesel generating sets, together with associated equipment and services worth almost £6 million. The order has been placed by the State Fuel and Power Corporation of Zanzibar to increase the amount of electric power available to industrial and domestic users on the islands of Pemba and Zanzibar. Four Mirrlees K Major generating sets each rated at 2850 kW and four sets each rated at 1770 kW will be installed in the Wesha power station on Pemba island to provide base load electric power.

Three K Major 2850 bhp sets are being supplied to the Mtoni power station on Zanzibar island to provide standby capacity to the submarine cable from Tanzania. All the sets will incorporate ac generators from Brush Electrical Machines Ltd, another Hawker Siddeley company.

Mirrlees Blackstone (Stockport) Ltd will be responsible for the complete installation and commissioning of all 11 generating sets and Mirrlees engineers will supervise the installation using local labour where this is practicable.

To expedite shipment Mirrlees will charter a complete vessel and ship the equipment in one load during the latter part of this year. Due to the restricted port facilities available at the destinations discharge will be made by transferring to flat-bottomed barges.

In addition to the generating sets and associated equipment, the contract includes the comprehensive training of the customer's engineers at the Mirrlees plant in Hazel Grove, Stockport, and at the factories of the major sub-contractors.

Further information: circle 485

Vosper Thornycroft patrol boats for Bahamas

Vosper Thornycroft's Portchester shipyard has recently completed three 18 m Keith Nelson patrol boats for the Bahamas Defence Force. They are to the latest, mark II, version of the design, based on the standard 18 m Keith Nelson glass-reinforced plastics hull.

The Portchester shipyard also has two 31 m steel patrol vessels for the Bahamas Defence Force nearing completion. The three 18 m boats are named *Inagua*, *Exuma*, and *Abaco*, after islands in the Bahamas group.

The 18 m grp hull, moulded by Tyler Boat Co Ltd, is one of the Keith Nelson family, of round bilge form with flat sections aft and a spray-deflecting knuckle forward. This provides a combination of good sea-keeping characteristics and satisfactory performance at a wide range of speeds.

In the case of the current boats for the Bahamas a propulsion scheme consisting of twin Caterpillar 3408TA turbo-charged diesels delivering 475 BHP each (maximum intermittent rating) to fixed pitch propellers gives a top speed of 20 knots. Endurance is 650 nautical miles at the maximum continuous speed of 16 knots. Twin Disc MG-514 reverse-reduction gearboxes (2 to 1 ratio), incorporating thrust bearings, are rigidly mounted on the engines.

Inagua, one of three 18 m patrol boats for the Bahamas Defence Force, recently completed by Vosper Thornycroft. **Further information: circle 486**

Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Addition to the import tariff. Resolution 199 of 25 January 1978 adds the following item to the import tariff:

Tariff heading/Description	Import duty (cif)
84.42.01.20 Leather splitting machine with endless knife, hydraulic or mechanical, of up to 3000 mm useful width, with electronically programmed controls	15%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Amendments to import tariff. The Argentine Ministry of Economy has passed several resolutions amending the import tariff. The goods affected fall within the following chapters of the tariff:

Chapters 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 45, 46, 48, 49, 68, 70, 74, 85, 91, 96 and 98

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Belize

Customs duty amendments. The Belize authorities have announced amendments to the rates of customs duty payable on items classified under the following tariff numbers:

22.03, 22.04, 22.05, 22.06, 22.07, 22.09, 24.02, 27.10, 87.02

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Brazil

Organomineral compounds. Customs policy council resolution, 3071, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 27 December, increased the import duty from 15 per cent to 45 per cent on the following compounds, classified under tariff heading 29.34.99.00:

Any dimethyl, dibutyl or dioctyl salt linked to an organic radical such as a malleate, octoate, thioglycolate, laurate or stearate.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Polyvinylchloride stabilisers. Customs policy council resolution, 3072, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 27 December, increased the import duty on 'any polyvinylchloride stabiliser based on organo-tins, consisting of dimethyl, dibutyl or dioctyl tin salts linked to an organic radical such as a malleate, octoate, thioglycolate, laurate or stearate', classified under tariff heading 38.19.99.00, from 25 per cent to 45 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Copper powder and particulate. Customs policy council resolution, 3074, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 27 December, increased the import duty on copper powder and particulate, under tariff heading 74.06.00.00, from 15 per cent to 45 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Isobutyl isobutyrate. Customs policy council edital 887, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 January, gave notice that the council was considering a proposed increase in import duty on isobutyl isobutyrate, under tariff heading 29.14.09.12, from 30 per cent to 60 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Chemical products. Customs policy council edital 886, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 12 January, gave notice that the council was considering duty reductions on 'seitz' filter sheets, for use specifically in the production of vaccines against aphthose fever, under tariff heading 68.13.99.00 'ex', from 137 per cent to 0 per cent; and acetylethyleneimine under tariff heading 29.26.99.00, from 15 per cent to 0 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Steel alloy armour for the protection of tyres. Customs policy council edital 885, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 12 January, gave notice that the council was considering a proposed revocation of resolution 1222, of 23 December 1971, which reduced the import duty on 'steel alloy armour for the protection of tyres' under tariff heading 73.29.02.00, from 55 per cent to 0 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Piezo-electric crystals. Customs policy council edital 884, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 6 January, gave notice that the council was considering a proposed increase in the import duty on mounted piezo-electric crystals, under tariff heading 85.21.93.00, from 55 per cent to 85 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Glass panels for cinescope bulbs. Customs policy council edital 883, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 6 January, gave notice that the council was considering a proposed decrease in import duty on 'glass panels for trichromatic cinescope bulbs with a coating of fluorescent substances and an applied shade', under tariff heading 85.21.93.00 'ex', from 55 per cent to 25 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Petrobras contracts. Customs policy council resolutions 2718 and 2719, granted duty concessions to imports intended solely for the execution of works or services contracted with Petrobras.

Resolution 3084, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 16 January, has altered this to allow duty free entry for such imports. The resolution came into force on the day of publication.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Agricultural chemicals. Customs policy council resolution 3082, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 16 January, extended the duty exemption on agricultural chemicals given under the conditions of resolution 2941 to such chemicals when these are intended for the manufacture and/or preparation of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and the like for export, provided that they conform with conditions to be established by the Foreign Trade Department of the Banco do Brasil SA – Cacex.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Parts for watches. Customs policy council edital 888, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 16 January, gave notice that the council was considering a reduction in import duty on parts for watches as follows:

Tariff heading/Description	Duty rate: Current	Duty rate: Under study
91.07.00.00 Small volume mechanisms for finished watches:		
91.07.01.00 For watches of heading 91.01	45%	15%
91.09.00.00 Cases for watches of heading 91.01 and their parts:		
91.09.01.00 Of base metal, whether or not gilt, silvered, platinum plated or plated with precious metals	45%	15%
91.11.00.00 Other parts and pieces of watches:		
91.11.01.00 Springs, rolled or in strip form	45%	15%
91.11.03.00 Industrial stones, worked, natural or synthetic	45%	15%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Manufactured goods tax amendments. Decree, 81 108, published in the *Diario Ofcial* of 23 December made alterations to the rates of manufactured goods tax (IPI) on certain goods. The new rates are as follows:

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757. In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Per cent

Tariff no.	Goods	IPI rate New	IPI rate Old
22.03.00.00	Beers	60	55
22.09.06.00	Liqueurs	60	55
22.09.07.00	Cane spirits:		
01	Simple	50	30
99	Other	50	40
22.09.08.00	Natural wine spirits or spirits derived from grape bagasse, fermented:		
01	Cognac	50	35
02	Bagaceira or grappa	50	35
99	Other	50	40
22.09.09.00	Spirits derived from agave and other plants	50	40
22.09.10.00	Spirits obtained from the distillation of sugar cane with added aromatics or medicinal substances	50	40
22.09.12.00	Spirits with added caramel, roots, barks or essences	50	40
22.09.13.00	Aperitifs (bitters, fernets etc.)	60	55
36.06.00.00	Matches	4	24
87.02.01.00	Motor cars and other vehicles		
01	Up to 100 CV gross (SAE)	24	—
02	Over 100 CV gross (SAE)	20	—

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty exemption on chloroethylene. Customs policy council resolution, 3073, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 27 December, reduced the import duty to 0 per cent on a quota of 78 800 tonnes of chloroethylene, under tariff heading 29.02.12.00, until 31 December 1978.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Pancreatin (trypsin). Customs policy council resolution, 3076, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 26 December increased the reference price on pancreatin (trypsin), under tariff heading 29.40.07.00, from US$ 29.00/kg cif to US$ 35.00/kg cif.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference price on cationic resins. Customs policy council resolution, 3086, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 8 February 1978, established a reference price for cationic resins, under tariff number 39.02.02.14, of US$ 1.80/kg cif.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference price on clinical thermometers. Customs policy council resolution, 3089, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 8 February 1978, established a reference price on thermometers, with maximum and minimum, for clinical examination, under tariff number 90.23.05.01, of US$ 0.43 each cif.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Electrical condensers. Customs policy council edital, 891, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 30 January, gave notice that the council was considering a proposed reduction in the import duty on fixed electric condensers, of paper, for use in circuits using alternating current, impregnated with oil, of from 85 per cent to 9 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reduction in reference price on phthalic anhydride. Customs policy council resolution, 3085, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 8 February 1978, reduced the reference price on phthalic anhydride from US$ 540.00/tonne cif to US$ 520.00/tonne cif.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty exemption on phosphorus. Customs policy council resolution, 3116, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 February, exempted phosphorus, under tariff number 28.04.03.04, from import duty.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Vehicle lamps. Customs policy council resolution, 3115, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 February, set the reference prices on 'incandescent filament lamps for vehicle illumination, of any voltage, "torpedo" or "pre-focus" based', under tariff number 85.20.10.00 as follows:

Asymmetric lamps	US$ 0.50 each cif
Halogen lamps	US$ 2.20 each cif

Resolution 2998, which set previous reference prices, is revoked.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference prices on taps. Customs policy council resolution, 3113, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 February, established new reference prices for taps, under tariff number 82.05.08.02. The new prices are extensive and details are available from OTAR.

Resolution 2885, which set previous reference prices, is revoked.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Silicon resin and polyvinyl alcohol. Customs policy council resolution, 3114, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 February, granted duty exemption to silicon resin, under tariff number 39.01.01.08, and polyvinyl alcohol, under tariff heading 39.02.02.11, where these are intended for the manufacture of agricultural protective chemicals.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Tri-isopropanolamine. Customs policy council resolution, 3117, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 February, granted duty exemption to tri-isopropanolamine, under tariff number 29.23.99.00, when intended for production of agricultural protective chemicals.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Vanadium pentoxide. Customs policy council resolution, 3095, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 17 February, granted a reduction in the import duty on vanadium pentoxide (vanadium anhydride), under tariff heading 28.28.16.00, from 15 per cent to 5 per cent for a period of two years, expiring on 17 February 1980.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty exemption on n-dipropylamine. Customs policy council resolution, 3111, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 February, granted duty exemption on n-dipropylamine, under tariff heading 29.22.99.00, when the chemical is intended for the manufacture of agricultural protective chemicals.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Amendments to agricultural chemical concessions. Customs policy council resolution, 3109, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 20 February, made certain alterations to the agricultural chemical concessions granted under resolution 2942, which exempted certain chemicals from import duty. The amendments are as follows:

Included in Annex 1 are:

38.11.02.00	1-phenyl-3-(0,0-diethyl-thionophosphoryl)-1,2,4,-triazol (Triazophos) in a minimum concentration of 40 per cent
38.11.99.00	n-decanol, in a minimum concentration of 79 per cent

Included in Annex 2 are:

23.07.04.99	Vitamin K – feed grade (menadione bisulphitone of sodium) in a minimum concentration of 50 per cent Vitamin D3 – 'feed grade' with a minimum potency of 200 000 IU/g
38.19.99.00	Ferro-dextran, 10 per cent solution

Excluded from Annex 2 is:

29.38.13.02	Vitamin D3 with a minimum potency of 200 000 IU/g (7-dehydro-cholesterol 5,6,7,8, cholastadiene-3-ole) in a minimum concentration of 95 per cent

Alteration to specification: i) In annex 1

23.07.04.99	'Vitamin K – "feed grade" (menadione dimethyl pyridinol bisulphitone) in a minimum concentration of 52 per cent is altered to read: 'Vitamin K – "feed grade" (menadione dimethyl pyrimidol bisulphitone) in a minimum concentration of 52 per cent
	ii) in Annex 2
38.11.03.01	'N-1,1,2,2-(tetrachloroethylthio)-4-cyclohexeno-1,2-dicarboxymide (Captafol) in a minium concentration of 39 per cent is altered to read: 'N-1,1,2,2-(tetrachloroethylthio)-4-cyclohexeno-1,2-dicarboxymide (Captafol) in a minimum concentration of 50 per cent, millable powder'

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

France

Detergents. The *Official Journal* of 18 January 1978 contained two new decrees concerning the biodegradability of detergents in connection with EEC directives 73/404 and 73/405.

Decree 77-1554 defines detergents and restricts the disposal of such as have a biodegradability of less than 90 per cent.

Decree 77-1555 lays down compulsory labelling requirements for detergents, which should include mention of their biodegradability.

Copies of the French text of the two decrees are available. A translation of decree 77-1555 is being prepared.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423.

Lorries and trailers. The *Official Journal* of 8 February 1978 contained a number of orders concerning the rear lights of lorries and trailers with an authorised laden weight over 6 metric tons, and amending the annex to the order of 26 February 1976 concerning anti-pollution and fuel saving devices.

Copies of the French text of these orders are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423.

India

Exemptions from import duty. The central government of India has announced that all life saving drugs, medicines and equipment are exempt from customs duty. It has also been announced that medical, surgical and diagnostic equipment/apparatus and appliances falling under tariff headings 90.17, 90.18, 90.19 and 90.20, when of a type not manufactured in India, are exempt from customs duty provided they are imported by government hospitals or hospitals run by charitable trusts or societies which

provide free service, or service at concessional rates. Copies of the relevant customs notifications are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475/7062.

Indonesia

Prohibition to import finished medicines. The Indonesian Director General of Medicines and Food Control has announced that with effect from 1 January 1978 only finished medicines of the following type will be allowed to enter Indonesia: anti-cancer drugs, insulin, diagnostic drugs, infusion liquids and some antibiotics in ampoule form. These drugs may only be imported with a special permit from the Minister of Health (Director General of Medicines and Food Control).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Registration of animal medicines. The Indonesian Minister of Agriculture has announced, with effect from 7 December 1977, new regulations on the obligatory registration and licensing of imported or domestically produced animal medicines. Loan copies are available on request.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Libya

Import duty concessions. In *Trade and Industry*, 3 March, page 485, 'car production' should read 'tar production'.

Mexico

Tariff amendments. Acuerdos published in the *Diario Oficial* of 29 December 1977 and in subsequent issues have made extensive alterations to the Mexican tariff in regard to duty rates, official prices and import licensing. Unofficial translations of these changes have been prepared and details are available from OTAR section.

Inquiries about this notice should quote the tariff number or specify the products in which they are interested.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

New Zealand

Tariff amendments: beer. The New Zealand government has issued the Customs Tariff (Beer) Amendment Order 1978, which will come into force on 1 April 1978, whereby tariff items CCCN 22.03.001, 22.03.002, and 22.03.009, will be cancelled and replaced by the following:

See table right.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/489.

CRE tel. Direct dialling

OTAR telephone 01-248 5757 followed by extension (see inquiry point given at the end of each notice)

Nigeria

Accommodation. Intending visitors to Nigeria should note that hotel accommodation may be difficult to obtain from 15 March to 4 April because of the visit of President Carter and his entourage.

Accommodation will be particularly scarce in Lagos from 31 March to 2 April and in Kano on 2 and 3 April.

Weights and measures. Further to notices in *Trade and Industry*, 12 November 1977, page 450 and 3 February 1978, page 229, a Nigerian Ministry of Information press release on 3 March announced the introduction of metric only markings on prepacked consumer goods as from 1 April 1978.

Firms are requested not to contact the British high commission in Lagos.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473.

Norway

Import duty amendments. The additional duty on goods manufactured from mashed potato and/or potato starch has been amended as follows:

Ex 19.02: Semi-manufactures of mashed potato and/or potato starch for the production of 'snacks' – the additional duty has been increased to Kr3.50/kg of the goods' net weight. Thus, for goods of UK origin the total import duty is now Kr3.50 + Kr0.50 (basic duty) = Kr4.00. Note: whereas the additional duty is calculated on the net weight of the goods the basic duty is calculated on the gross weight.

Ex 19.08: 'Snacks' manufactured from mashed potato and/or potato starch – the total import duty for goods of UK origin is now as follows:

	Additional duty (Kr/kg net weight)	+ Basic duty (Kr/kg gross weight)	= Total duty (Kr)
Less than 10 per cent by weight of mashed potato and/or potato starch	0	0	0
From 10 per cent up to and including 29.99 per cent by weight of mashed potato and/or potato starch	1.05	0	1.05
From 30 per cent up to and including 69.99 per cent by weight of mashed potato and/or potato starch	2.45	0	2.45
From 70 per cent upwards by weight of mashed potato and/or potato starch	3.50	0	3.50

No further information is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Pakistan

Clearance of goods. The Pakistan Customs Act of 1969 states that goods should be cleared, warehoused or transhipped within two months of unloading at a customs station although this stipulation has not been rigidly enforced in the past.

It is understood, however, that in an attempt to clear their congested go-downs, Pakistan customs are applying the two months' rule more rigorously. A public notice which has been reproduced in the Pakistan press says that all imported goods which have remained uncleared in the port area for a period of more than two months will be auctioned. This makes it even more imperative that exporters' documentation should be precise in order to avoid any possibility of consignments being declared frustrated cargo on the technicality of incorrect documentation. No further information is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475/7062.

Import regulations. A press report has been received from Pakistan which states that the Pakistan government has decided to allow importation of second-hand buses and trucks (in built-up form) by Pakistanis working abroad against certified foreign exchange earnings.

Such imports, it is reported, are to be confined to standardised makes only and the vehicles shall be used/second-hand but not more than two years old. No further information is available but when official confirmation is received another notice will be issued.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 420/475/7062.

Number	Description	Unit	Rates of duty effective on and after 1 July: Year	Normal tariff	British preferential	Other preferential rates of duty
22.03	**Beer made from malt:**					
22.03.003	Containing not more than 1.7 per cent alcohol by volume *per litre*	1	1 April 1978	27½%	27½%	Aul 17½% Can 17½% CPC 17½% DC 17½%
22.03.005	Containing more than 1.7 per cent but not more than 4.35 per cent alcohol by volume *per litre*	1	1 April 1978	29.93c	29.93c	Aul 15.94c Can 25.21c CPC 25.21c
22.03.007	Containing more than 4.35 per cent but not more than 5 per cent alcohol by volume *per litre*	1	1 April 1978	37.42c	37.42c	Aul 19.93c Can 32.70c CPC 32.70c
22.03.008	Containing more than 5 per cent alcohol by volume *per litre*	1	1 April 1978	47.13c	47.13c	Aul 25.10c Can 42.41c CPC 42.41c

Philippines

Tariff changes on man-made fibres. The Philippines government has issued presidential decree 1258-A which came into force on 25 November 1977 and amends tariff heading CCCN 56.02 to read as follows:

Tariff heading/Description	Rate of duty *ad val.*
56.02	
Continuous filament tow for the manufacture of man-made fibres (discontinuous):	
A Articles not included in subheading B and C hereof	10%
B Acetate tow and similar continuous filament tow when imported directly by cigarette filter rod manufacturers	20%
C Polyester filament tow, except when imported directly by textile spinning mills under prior joint authorisation of the tariff commission and the Board of Investments	30%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs tariff application list 7/78, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 10 March 1978, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on: **blood** (including plasma), transfusion equipment, wholly or chiefly of plastic material, classifiable under tariff subheading 90.17.90; **tubing** with fittings, of plastic material identifiable for use with kidney machines for the transfer of blood, classifiable under tariff subheading 90.17.90; **dialysers** of plastic material, identifiable for use in kidney machines, classifiable under tariff subheading 84.18.90; **bags** of plastic material, with a capacity not exceeding 2.5 litres and fitted with tubes of less than 10 cm in length, classifiable under tariff subheading 90.17.90.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5274.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Trinidad and Tobago

Horses: import ban. The ban on the import of horses into Trinidad and Tobago has now been amended to exclude horses in training, provided stringent requirements regarding health are fulfilled and a certificate to this effect is obtained from The Secretary, Export of Horses Section, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey. The ban on breeding stock continues.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Tungsten filament lamps. The Trinidad and Tobago authorities have announced their intention of introducing a compulsory standard for tungsten filament lamps for general use. It is intended that this standard will become compulsory after one year.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Poultry feed. The Trinidad and Tobago authorities have announced their intention of introducing a compulsory standard for poultry feed. This standard will become effective immediately on a voluntary basis and will become compulsory at a later date.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

United States

Diagnostic X-ray systems. The *Federal Register*, dated 24 February 1978, published a rule proposed by the Food and Drug Administration to amend the performance standards for diagnostic X-ray systems and their major components. Written comments (four copies) by 25 April 1978 to Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. A copy of the text is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Consumer product labelling. The *Federal Register*, dated 1 March 1978, published a rule by the United States Department of Commerce amending the procedures for the voluntary consumer product information labelling programme to include information for consumer products which is included in the labelling of other federal agencies. A copy of the text is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Import of speciality steels under quota. Import statistics in pounds weight for the following products with quotas still open as at 3 March 1978.

Sheets and strips of stainless steel (item 923.20)	Quota filled
Plates of stainless steel (item 923.21)	4 740 099
Bars of stainless steel (item 923.22)	Quota filled

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

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European community news

Direct elections: 1979 dates put to summit

EEC foreign ministers have agreed in principle to recommend to the next European council in April alternative dates in May and June 1979 from which it can select the dates for the first direct elections to the European assembly said Frank Judd, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on 8 March.

Reporting on the foreign affairs council meeting in Brussels on 7 March, he said the ministers approved a supplementary mandate for negotiations with Cyprus on agricultural trade. 'I underlined the political importance of securing a successful outcome,' Mr Judd said.

Mr Judd said that ministers had reviewed progress in the continuing dialogue with the Japanese on trade and payments matters and agreed on the next steps. Also discussed were certain aspects of the north/south dialogue, in particular the current considerations of developing-country debt in the United Nations conference on trade and development's trade and development board.

Ministers heard progress reports on work by the permanent representatives and by the commission on the Greek accession negotiations, the Gatt multilateral trade negotiations and negotiations with third countries on trade in steel. There was also a short discussion on the internal situation on steel and shipbuilding, he said.

Political co-operation

Mr Judd said that foreign ministers also met in political co-operation to exchange views on African topics. There was some discussion of the Horn of Africa. David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, had given the other ministers an account of the position reached in relation to Rhodesia, with particular reference to the debate in the security council at the United Nations. The French and German foreign ministers gave accounts of their visits to African countries.

Mr Judd said the discussion served to establish a community view before Dr Owen's visit to Washington.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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'Green franc' devalued after EEC agricultural meeting

During March the European commission will, on an experimental basis, calculate monetary compensatory amounts for member states with floating currencies with reference to the market rate for the previous three weeks instead of one week as at present, said John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on 8 March. Answering a parliamentary question on the meeting of the EEC agriculture ministers held in Brussels on 6 and 7 March, he said the results of this experiment would be reported to the next council on 4 and 5 April.

Mr Silkin said ministers also discussed the problems raised by the decline in the value of the French franc by comparison with the currencies in the European joint float. It was finally agreed that the 'green franc' be devalued by 1.2 per cent with effect from 8 March.

Mr Silkin said, 'The French delegation sought a change in the calculation of pigmeat MCAs using the same arguments which I have consistently used in the council for a prolonged period. I gave them my full support but again no decision was taken because of the very firm views of those delegations which would lose from a change in the method of calculation. The discussion will be continued at future councils.'

Ministers continued the discussion on common prices for 1978/79 but no agreement was reached. Consequently the council agreed to extend for one month the marketing years for milk and beef, the products for which new prices normally come into effect at the beginning of April. 'At my insistence this decision comprehended, contrary to the commission's proposal, the extension of the Feoga-financed UK butter subsidy at its existing level,' he said.

The commission had presented to ministers a number of new proposals for inclusion in this year's farm price package including the suspension of beef intervention in certain market circumstances; improvements in the non-marketing and conversion premiums for milk; suspension of intervention for skimmed milk powder during the winter months; the provision of 50 million units of account for measures to promote the consumption of butter; and an extension of the list of products eligible for aid under the school milk scheme. Mr Silkin said, 'These proposals will require detailed examination, but I welcome the general principle underlying them which is to diminish the importance of intervention and increase the extent to which community surpluses are sold on the community's own market.'

Mr Silkin concluded that the council had a useful first discussion of the commission's proposed regulation to safeguard the essential functions of the milk marketing boards. 'I stressed the vital importance for the UK and for the community as a whole of enabling the daily delivery of milk to be continued and therefore maintaining the high level of consumption of liquid milk in the UK.'

Commission concludes MCAs 'harmful'

In its report on the economic effects of the agri-monetary system the European commission has come to the general conclusion that it has proved harmful. The commission argues that the system has, over an extended period, protected the agricultural sector – already sheltered to some extent from the laws of the market – from the normal effects that monetary changes have had on other sectors of the economy, instead of providing a temporary adjustment mechanism.

The report, the commission claims, backs up its proposals to phase out monetary compensatory amounts progressively over a period of seven years.

The commission's report studies the effects of the agri-monetary system on the common agricultural policy, on production and consumption, on the allocation of resources and on trade. An attempt is made at estimating its economic and financial cost. There are short case histories on three subjects: milk and fresh cream, pigmeat, and trade between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The commission also concludes that the use of 'green' rates which differ from market rates of exchange has disrupted the unity of the agricultural common market. The effect of the agri-monetary system on the production and consumption of agricultural products

has, the commission says, been undeniable and it has been especially marked where price differences have been great and remained so for a long time. There were no clear-cut effects on trade though in specific cases some effects have been seen.

The report concludes that it was difficult to assess the economic cost but the agri-monetary system accounted for 14 per cent of the European agriculture fund guarantee section's expenditure in 1977.

UK's position

At the agriculture ministers meeting in Brussels on 13 and 14 February, John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, challenged the report's conclusions, which he said were not supported by the facts and, in particular, the reference to the cost of the agri-monetary system was inconsistent with the commission's own estimate of the financial consequences of phasing out MCAs.

Mr Silkin also expressed disappointment at the report's inadequate consideration of the problem of pigmeat MCAs. He further argued that the phasing out of MCAs could only be considered if agreement could be reached on the use of a more representative unit of account in agriculture and on an economically justifiable common price level.

EEC sheepmeat regime must allow NZ imports – Silkin

Any EEC sheepmeat regime must provide for UK requirements for substantial imports which can only come from New Zealand, said John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on 3 March.

Answering a parliamentary question, he said that the New Zealand government was concerned about the maintenance of agricultural exports to the community. 'We keep in close touch with them on these matters'.

On dairy products, Mr Silkin said that under arrangements made under protocol 18 of the act of accession imports of specified quantities of butter from New Zealand were assured up to the end of 1980. Arrangements after 1980 had yet to be made on the basis of protocol 18, he said.

There was no provision made in protocol 18 for continued imports of cheese after the end of 1977 but the heads of government of the community when they met in Dublin in March 1975 noted that this situation and the problems that might arise from it would be given due attention, he added.

The possibility of access arrangements for cheese was one of the questions to be considered in the negotiations for a new international agreement on dairy products in the Gatt multilateral trade negotiations, Mr Silkin concluded.

Commission proposes EMU 1978 action programme

A programme that provides a framework for action to support the economy, to deal with structural problems and to lead Europe out of the current economic crisis is the claim by European commission for its recently presented 1978 action programme for economic and monetary union.

The programme is the first submitted under the five-year plan presented to the European council last December and the commission says it provides a foundation for genuine economic and monetary union.

Broadly the programme sets out an overall plan of action for different sectors in the coming year. The sectors covered include economic and monetary policy, customs administration, social regional and structural policy and energy.

The commission intends to launch an attack on three main fronts: the increased convergence of economies and economic policies; progress towards setting up a single competitive market; and the development of community structural and social policies.

The commission feels that the convergence of economic policies is an essential step towards European integration. In the programme the commission says that, because the economic policies of member states are interdependent, the co-ordination of short-term economic policies must take on a new dimension, become more realistic in practice and wider in application.

The commission will therefore concentrate on working towards a closer co-ordination of monetary and budgetary policies and the re-establishment of monetary cohesion within the community.

In order to achieve a single community market – which, the commission says, would be a step towards integration, a growth factor and a guarantee against protectionism – it hopes that EEC ministers will adopt a number of proposals currently before them particularly those on tax harmonisation, the elimination of technical barriers to trade and the opening of public contracts to competitive bidding. The commission also says that to promote the free movement of goods through the community steps should be taken during the year to encourage greater harmonisation of customs procedures for both internal and external trade.

The commission concludes that if the programme is to be implemented satisfactorily, it must be monitored throughout and be given effective political backing. Additionally the commission suggests that the European council carry out a review at the end of the year.

EEC status report on energy R and D

A status report on contracts concluded in the first phase of its four-year energy research and development programme has been published by the European commission.

The book contains brief statements on a large number of contracts concluded, in sufficient detail to allow assessment of whether the work is likely to be of relevance to another company's operations. The name and address of the research organisation is given in each case, enabling direct contact to be established between interested parties.

The commission says that the energy R and D programme of the European Communities, a four-year indirect action programme coping with 'new energies', energy conservation and energy systems modelling, is well underway. All projects to be carried out in the first phase of this programme are in progress and the commission's services, together with the different advisory bodies, are already

Commission representatives discuss textile matters in London

Tran Van Thinh (centre), the European Commission's chief negotiator in the recently concluded bilateral textile agreements between the EEC and the main textile supplying countries, and other commission representatives were in London on 6 March. This was their first stop in a tour of EEC capitals and they met officials of the Departments of Trade and Industry when textile issues of mutual interest were discussed. With Mr Tran in the picture, are (left to right) John Beck, Guillaume Hoffman, John Falconer, Mr Tran, Pierre Vrebos, Yvonne Loriot, Andrew Pierce.

strongly involved in the implementation of the second phase of the programme.

The commission felt that at this point the publication of a comprehensive overview of all contracts concluded in the first programme phase would be the best way of keeping those individuals or institutions naturally interested in the work informed. The present report should be considered as the first attempt to fulfill this task.

Entitled 'Energy R & D Programmes: First Status Report 1975-76', the report is available direct from Martinus Nijhoff, PO Box 269, Lange Voorhout 9-11, The Hague, Netherlands, price Fl45, plus Fl6 postage.

EEC preferences – new customs notices

Two Customs and Excise notices, 827 'EEC Exports – Preference Procedures' and 828 'EEC Preferences – Rules of Origin', are now available and may be obtained at any local office of Customs and Excise.

Customs and Excise points out particularly the red-printed insert accompanying notice 828 which includes a new origin rule for certain goods put up in sets and explains the position concerning Spain and Cyprus.

Amendments 1 and 2 to notice 828 are now expected to be available in April and a further announcement will be made in due course.

Both amendments take account of changes in certain of the rules of origin following the amendment of the CCC nomenclature on 1 January.

Until the amendments are available, where the goods to be exported have changed their classification as a result of the amendment of the CCC nomenclature, exporters should, for origin purposes only, apply the rules of origin as though reclassification has not occurred.

Anti-dumping probe into Swedish rosin

An investigation has been opened by the European commission into allegations that certain rosin originating in Sweden is being dumped or subsidised and that this is causing injury to a community industry. The products concerned fall under Nimexe code ex 38.08.19.

Interested parties are advised to submit their views in writing to the Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for External Relations, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, by 10 April 1978.

It would be helpful if copies of all representations to the commission could also be sent to the Department of Trade's Anti-Dumping Unit, Room 323, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

The full text of the notice has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Results of kraft liner dumping investigations

On 3 March, the EEC commission announced the opening of an investigation into the alleged dumping of kraft liner originating in Sweden, Finland, Canada, Portugal and Austria and on 11 March closed the cases against all countries except Canada, following receipt of satisfactory undertakings regarding the price levels of future exports to the community. The investigation concerning Canada is still proceeding.

Also on 11 March the commission announced the imposition of a provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of kraft liner originating in the United States. The duty came into force the same day and amounts to be collected will be calculated by subtracting the cif value at the community frontier from 'fair market prices' which have been set as follows:

Weights of 175 g/m²	$255 per tonne
Weights of 150 g/m² or over but below 175 g/m²	$265 per tonne
Weights below 150 g/m²	$275 per tonne

Definition change in EEC code for transactions in transferable securities

The European commission has made a minor change in the recommendation on a European code of conduct for transactions in transferable securities.

The definition of 'principals' on page 41 of recommendation 77/534/EEC of 25 July 1977, under the subheading 'definitions' is replaced by:

principals shall mean all persons who give orders to buy or sell transferable securities and in particular those occupying a strategic position with regard to a security and the market in it (eg company directors and managers, holders or acquirers of major shareholdings);

EEC rules of competition

The *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L53, 24 February 1978, contains the text of a commission decision dated 21 December 1977 relating to a proceeding under article 85 of the treaty of Rome:

78/172/EEC: Brooke Bond Liebig Ltd group (Liebig) (reference DGIV 29.418). The decision relates to proceedings initiated in June 1977 by the European commission under article 3(1) of regulation 17 to investigate if obligations imposed by Liebig on its principal Belgian distributors of spices infringed article 85(1) of the treaty.

The commission found that the provision in the distribution agreements for Belgium made by the Brooke Bond Liebig Ltd group, through its subsidiary Brooke Bond Liebig Benelux NV with GB-Inno-BM SA, Etablissements Delhaize Freres et Cie, Le Lion SA and Sarma Penney Ltd, prohibiting them from selling on their premises spices other than those produced by Liebig and those sold under their own brands, constituted an infringement of article 85(1) of the treaty and ruled that it should be terminated forthwith.

Further information can be obtained from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5092.

New legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/482/408.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Regulation (EEC) 2838/77 derogating from regulation (EEC) 192/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of export refunds in respect of agricultural products. This suspends the application of article 8(4) of regulation 192/75 until 31 December 1979 (*Official Journal* L327, 20 December 1977).

Cereals. Regulation (EEC) 2835/77 laying down detailed rules with respect to aid for durum wheat (*Official Journal* L327, 20 December 1977).

Seeds. The *Official Journal* L327, 20 December 1977, contains the texts of the following decisions:

Decision 77/783/EEC authorising Italy to permit temporarily the marketing of certain rice seed not complying with the requirements of directive 66/402/EEC.

Decision 77/784/EEC authorising France to permit temporarily the marketing of certain timothy seed not complying with the requirements of directive 66/401/EEC.

Live plants and products of the flower-growing industry. The *Official Journal* L58, 28 February 1978, contains the text of decision 78/192/EEC amending article 3 of decision 69/84/EEC setting up the advisory committee on live plants.

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 422/78 amending regulation (EEC) 2796/77 as regards the period of application of reference prices for liqueur wines, by substituting 30 April 1978 for 28 February 1978 in article 2 (*Official Journal* L59, 1 March 1978).

Regulation (EEC) 423/78 amending for the second time regulation (EEC) 1297/77 amending for the fourth time regulation (EEC) 1019/70 on detailed rules for establishing free-at-frontier prices and fixing the countervailing charge in the wine sector (*Official Journal* L59, 1 March 1978).

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal* L58, 28 February 1978, contains the texts of the following decisions:

Decision 78/186/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to umbrellas and sunshades falling within heading

66.01 of the common customs tariff, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/187/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to table ware and other articles of a kind commonly used for domestic or toilet purposes, of porcelain or china (including biscuit porcelain and parian) or of other kinds of pottery other than common pottery or stoneware, falling within heading 69.11 and subheadings 69.12 C and D of the common customs tariff, originating in the People's Republic of China and in free circulation in the other member states.

The *Official Journal* L61, 3 March 1978, contains the text of decision 78/199/EEC authorising Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands not to apply community treatment to industrial and occupational clothing of mixed synthetic textile fibres and of cotton for men and women, falling within heading ex 61.01 and ex 61.02 of the common customs tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other member states.

The *Official Journal* L62, 4 March 1978, contains the texts of the following decisions:

Decision 78/202/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to table ware and other articles of a kind commonly used for domestic or toilet purposes, of porcelain or china (including biscuit porcelain and parian) or of other kinds of pottery other than common pottery or stoneware, falling within heading 69.11 and subheadings 69.12 C and D of the common customs tariff, originating in Japan and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 78/204/EEC authorising Germany not to apply community treatment to special gloves for sports, of leather, falling within heading ex 42.03 of the common customs tariff, originating in the People's Republic of China and in free circulation in the other member states.

Official publications on community matters

The following selected publications, issued during the period 1 February to 28 February 1978 can be ordered from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, quoting the standard book number in parentheses after each title:

Command papers

7065: European Communities No. 2 (1978). Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria on the import into the Community of Tomato Concentrates originating in Algeria. Brussels, 28 January 1977. [The Agreement was made under Article 113 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.] 4 pp. (0 10 170650 2.) 15p.

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7068: European Communities Treaty Series No. 5 (1978). Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, extending the period of validity of Decision 76/584/ECSC opening tariff preferences for products covered by that Community and originating in Tunisia. Luxembourg, 28 June 1977. 2 pp. (0 10 170680 4.) 10p.

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EEC company law should be flexible – Clinton Davis

A report on the Department of Trade's annual EEC company law conference, with a progress report on the relevant directives.

EEC company law harmonisation will make a more effective contribution to the development of the community if it concentrates on the broad common principles underlying most company law in Europe, leaving room not only for differences in current practices between member states, but also for flexibility in future development. Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping drew this conclusion at the Department of Trade's, annual conference on EEC company law harmonisation on 22 February.

At the conference, attended by about 70 members of the City, professional bodies and industrial companies, Mr Clinton Davis reviewed past developments and drew conclusions for the future.

He said that since the last conference a year ago, no further directives had been adopted, and no new proposed directives had been published but nevertheless the year had been a particularly busy one.

When the UK had joined the EEC in 1973, he said, considerable progress had already been made with the company law harmonisation programme, which had started 10 years earlier. One directive had been adopted and a number of others had been published. 'In the five years following the UK's accession we have reached the position where all the draft directives under active negotiation, and the second directive which was adopted in December 1976, contain new provisions to meet our needs,' Mr Davis said.

He continued that there were a number of reasons why it was important to ensure that the harmonisation programme should retain a considerable degree of flexibility and not seek to impose detailed uniform rules; the first lay in the differing legal and administrative structures in different member states and the second in the need for the law to adapt to new developments and changing circumstances.

General economic circumstances could change rapidly he said. For instance, the increase in the rate of inflation since 1973, not only in the UK, but in most other countries, had focused attention on the need for an effective system of inflation accounting to be adopted.

Mr Clinton Davis said company law also had to adapt to changing social needs. In particular the general move towards greater openness in all aspects of economic life, which led to requirements for more disclosure of information by companies, not only to shareholders but to employees, creditors and others who have dealings with the company. There was also the vital area of industrial relations and the need to secure a greater degree of participation by employees in their companies.

'This is one area where harmonisation will prove very difficult to achieve, given the diverse trade union structures and approaches to employee participation in the different member states. The effect of these various pressures, means that company law must keep changing in order to provide an effective framework for our industrial and commercial life,' he said.

'Up to now, the UK has been mainly concerned in the negotiations on draft directives to consider their effect on our existing law, and on the planned changes that we had in prospect for our law. But directives, once adopted, are not likely to be changed quickly or easily. Caution will certainly be called for about agreeing to a provision in a directive even if it does not conflict with our present law, or practice, where we can foresee that changed circumstances might cause us difficulties with the provision in the future.'

Concluding, Mr Clinton Davis said that, from Britain's experience to date, detailed harmonisation of company law was not only technically difficult to achieve, but it could also lead to undesirable rigidity in what should essentially be an adaptable framework for business life, and harmonisation could make a more effective contribution to the development of the community by concentrating on broad common principles leaving room for differences in current practice between member states, and for flexibility in future development.

Company law directives

Third directive – internal mergers

The third directive, which could be ready for adoption this year, is concerned with mergers between public companies. Only mergers between companies registered in the same member state are covered: cross-frontier mergers are being considered separately in a proposed convention on international mergers. It is also concerned only with mergers of the share exchange type; the most common form of merger in the UK, the takeover, is not covered.

The main features of the draft directive are:

☐ A merger is defined as the operation whereby one or more companies, having dissolved without going into liquidation, transfer to another all their assets and liabilities in exchange for the issue to the shareholders of the company or companies acquired of shares in the acquiring company with an equalisation payment not exceeding 10 per cent, and the company being acquired is dissolved without going into liquidation. Member states which do not at present provide in their law for mergers of this type will be required to do so.

☐ Terms of the merger must be drawn up and an expert's report on the terms must be prepared.

☐ The merger must be approved by a general meeting of the company being acquired, and in certain circumstances by the acquiring company.

☐ The interests of debenture holders and creditors are to be protected.

☐ The merger will result in universal and simultaneous transfer of all the assets and liabilities of the company being acquired. This concept is new to UK law.

☐ A simplified procedure is provided for where the acquiring company holds all the shares of the company being acquired.

☐ The provisions of the directive are to be

applied to certain other types of share exchange transactions.

The present draft of the directive goes a considerable way towards meeting a number of points that were of some concern to the UK government. The main question outstanding is the manner in which the directive should be implemented in UK law. The two possible courses of action are:

1 to adopt into UK law the concept of a merger as laid down in the directive as a separate legal process, with its own special rules, distinct from other schemes of arrangement and reconstruction; or

2 to maintain our present legal framework and attempt to negotiate further amendments to the directive which would enable it to be implemented without modifications to UK legislation.

It is considered that it would be most difficult to negotiate a derogation from the provisions concerning simultaneous universal transfer and automatic creditor protection, which would require major modifications to the Companies Act 1948, as these provisions are regarded by other member states as basic concepts of the directive. The department is therefore, in consultation with interested bodies, examining the case for accepting course 1 above.

Fourth directive – company accounts

Negotiations on the main points outstanding on the draft fourth directive are at an advanced stage. From the UK view point there is one major issue outstanding – the inclusion of provisions for revaluation of assets to take account of inflation (inflation accounting). It is possible that this directive could be adopted during 1978, which would mean that companies would be required to produce their accounts in conformity with the detailed formats laid down by the directive from 1982. This will bring about a radical degree of reform on the continent, where private companies are not at present generally required to publish their accounts.

The fourth directive will introduce two new aspects into company accounts in the UK: prescribed formats for the layout of accounts and rules for the valuation of assets. Neither of these matters have previously been incorporated to any significant degree in UK company legislation but have been left very much to the discretion of companies and the accountancy profession. The law has up till now specified the matters which should be disclosed but not generally the manner of their disclosure or the methods used to arrive at the amounts being disclosed (although methods actually adopted have had to be disclosed).

Sixth directive – prospectuses issued when securities are listed on a stock exchange

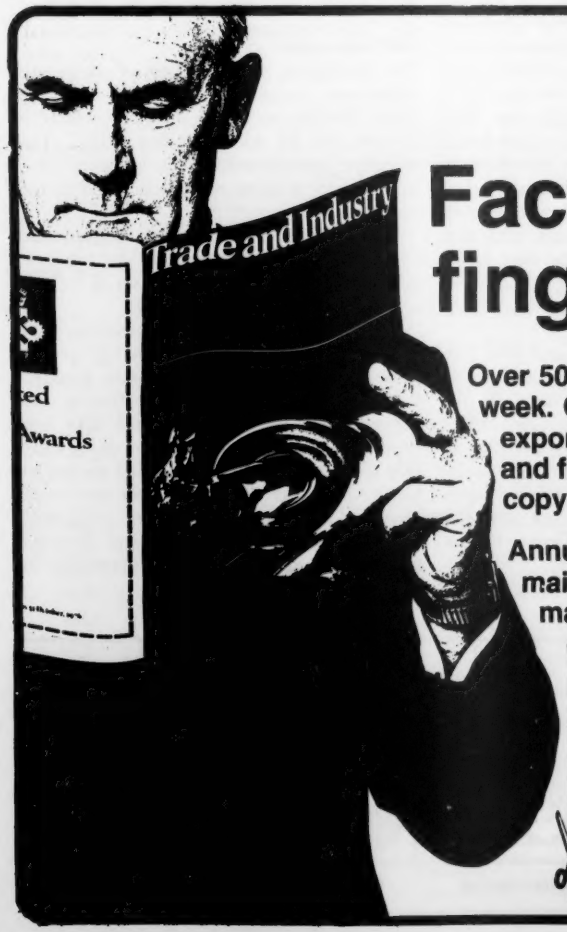
This draft directive is at an advanced stage in a council of ministers working group and could be ready for adoption towards the end of this year. Generally speaking the rules and practice of the UK Stock Exchange are in advance of those of similar bodies in other member states and if various detailed points are resolved in the UK's favour implementation of the directive will cause relatively little change to UK practice.

As the directive lays down only minimum conditions the Stock Exchange will still be able, where appropriate, to apply more rigorous standards. However the directive diverges from UK practice in one fundamental respect in that it requires the issue of a 'prospectus' when securities are admitted to listing. In contrast the Companies Act 1948 stipulates that a prospectus should be issued when shares or debentures are offered to the public. In practice in many cases the result will be the same since the offer to the public and an application for listing will be almost simultaneous. There are, however, a number of occasions when the Stock Exchange admits shares to listing but does not require a full prospectus to be issued, most notably for rights issues. Special treatment for such issues is still being sought.

Directive on the conditions for admission of securities to Stock Exchange listing

This directive, which is also at an advanced stage in a council of ministers working group, mirrors to a large extent the listing requirements of the UK Stock Exchange and for that reason is generally acceptable.

A further directive still being drafted by the commission on the continuing information to be provided by listed companies will be amalgamated with this directive in due course. In both attempts are being made to preserve the Stock Exchange's practice of treating applicants and listed companies on a flexible basis.



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EEC hazardous labelling scheme to operate in UK

Suppliers of any of about 800 dangerous chemicals - mostly used in industry, but some used in the home - will be legally obliged to put warning labels on their containers, under regulations laid before parliament on 1 March. The regulations implement an EEC directive on the packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

The regulations have been prepared in consultation with the Trades Union Congress, Confederation of British Industry, trade and consumer organisations, and are the first step towards establishing a standardised scheme throughout the EEC for the labelling of all hazardous substances. Implementation will be in two stages according to container size. Suppliers have until 1 September 1978, to put labels on containers with a capacity of 200 litres or more, and until 1 March 1979 on containers with a capacity of less than 200 litres. Containers also must be properly designed, constructed and secured to prevent accidental spillage.

The basic idea of the scheme, which covers such chemicals as acetaldehyde, concentrated nitric acid, hydrofluoric acid, and mercury compounds, is that by reading a simple label the user of a listed substance will be able to gain quick but important guidance on its main dangers and how to handle and use it safely.

The principal feature of the label (see below) is a pictorial symbol accompanied by a key word. A symbol shows, where possible, the likely dangers of the chemical and is printed in black on a bright orange/yellow background so that it stands out. Every chemical, listed in a schedule to the regulations, is classified according to the hazard or hazards it presents: explosive, highly flammable, toxic, corrosive, flammable, oxidizing, irritant and harmful. Each hazard category has its own symbol: an exploding bomb for explosive substances; a flame over a circle for oxidizing substances; a skull and crossbones for toxic substances; a flame for highly flammable substances; a hand and piece of metal being dissolved by liquid dropping from two test tubes for corrosive substances, and a St Andrew's Cross for harmful or irritant substances.

In addition, the regulations generally require each label to carry:

- one or more risk phrases spelling out in more detail the main dangers, eg. 'very toxic in contact with the skin' or 'reacts very violently with water';
- one or more safety phrases giving advice on sensible safety precautions, eg. 'wear suitable protective clothing' or 'never add water to this product';
- the names of the chemical and name and address if the supplier or manufacturer which may assist doctors or first-aid staff in the event of an accident.

The responsibility under the regulations for labelling the containers will rest with the supplier. Manufacturers or importers will be required to attach labels before supplying directly to other manufacturers or before supplying wholesale or retail outlets. Wholesalers and retailers will still have an obligation to ensure that products are correctly labelled before selling them to users, but in practice it is expected that manufacturers' labels will remain on containers. Wholesalers or retailers who re-package must attach their own labels.

Minimum sizes are specified for the labels depending on container capacity but there will be room for manufacturers to put brand names and other information elsewhere on the container. Where a substance is required to be labelled under both these regulations and under existing transport rules, allowance is made for a single label to be used which shows the requirements of the appropriate transport rules and certain provisions of the new regulations.

Enforcement of the regulations will generally be carried out by health and safety inspectors, eg factory inspectors, of the Health and Safety Executive (the HSC's operational arm). However, in the case of shops and registered pharmacies the regulations will be enforced by local authority weights and measures inspectors and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain respectively.

The following is a list of some of the chemicals which are covered by the regulations and used in the home: sodium hydroxide anhydrous (caustic soda for cleaning drains); formic acid (kettle descaler); sodium chlorate weed killer); sodium hypochlorite (bleach).

The label on this drum of crotonaldehyde is an example of the type required under the packaging and labelling of dangerous substances regulations.

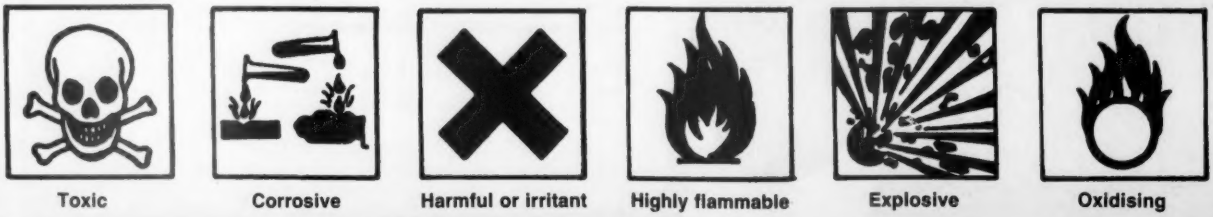
EEC directive

The packaging and labelling of dangerous substances regulations implement within Great Britain an EEC directive which is binding on all nine member states. The directive, incorporating the new type of label, applies only to those substances listed in the regulations.

The EEC intends however to gradually extend this form of labelling to products which contain only a proportion of one or more of the dangerous chemicals.

Since the labelling of all dangerous substances is an enormous undertaking, groups of products are being dealt with through individual directives. A directive dealing with paints, varnishes, adhesives and inks was recently approved and member states have two years to introduce legislation to implement it. Further directives cover pesticides, solvents and a wide range of household products such as disinfectants and cleaning agents, some of which can be dangerous in the home if not used properly.

Indication of general nature of risk



Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1976	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million 18,401	10,528	1,830	1,929	£ million		
1971	101.8	32,675	9,682	1,988	1,922	92	−148	52	18	1,057	279	778
1972	104.2	34,542	9,797	1,721	2,035	34	−145	48	15	107	−701	808
1973	110.4	36,062	10,253	1,730	2,377	1,321	597	102	379	−910	−2,354	1,444
1974	109.5	35,361	10,287	1,964	2,300	596	634	81	−109	−3,538	−5,195	1,657
1975	107.9	35,257	10,062	1,695	1,921	−743	−429	−111	−65	−1,614	−3,205	1,591
1976	110.1	35,405	9,724	1,633	1,900	66	5	23	9	−1,107	−3,510	2,403
1977		35,147		1,762	2,067		137 p	107 p	17 p	−35	−1,612	1,577
1976 1st qtr.	110.2	8,829	2,489	397	448	44	0	26	33	−47	−543	496
2nd qtr.	109.6	8,797	2,425	400	468	−57	−66	−20	−45	−345	−909	564
3rd qtr.	109.8	8,880	2,435	414	488	−1	−2	14	16	−377	−1,097	720
4th qtr.	110.8	8,899	2,375	422	496	80	73	3	5	−338	−961	623
1977 1st qtr.	109.8	8,761	2,248	418	501	155	125	51	102	−505	−947	442
2nd qtr.	110.0	8,665	2,231	433	507	235	164	39	−5	−364	−764	400
3rd qtr.	109.9	8,796	2,262	456	529	−81	−31	5	−44	483	54	429
4th qtr.		8,925 pe		455 p	531 p		−21 p	12 p	−36 p	351	45	306
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−0.3	+1.7	−2.8	+7.1	+5.2							
on a year earlier	+0.2	−0.3	−7.6	+9.0	+7.7							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and earnings				Labour (UK)			Visible trade (volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Average gross earnings of all employees (GB, all industries and services covered)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Export	Import
				monthly averages		% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	On a balance of payments basis	
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices		(not seasonally adjusted)				(old series)				at 1975 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 16,296	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	Jan. 1970	thousands		thousands	1975 19,462	1975 22,667
1971	100.3	99.4	100.0	108.5	80.0	9.4	104.6	109.0	119.4	775.8	3.4	130.9	84.6	83.3
1972	102.5	102.0	105.3	138.6	85.7	7.1	109.2	114.8	134.8	854.9	3.7	147.3	84.5	92.4
1973	109.9	110.5	110.3	137.1	93.5	9.1	144.5	123.2	152.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	96.8	105.6
1974	106.9	108.9	109.0	102.8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	179.6	599.7[1]	2.6[1]	302.7[1]	103.9	107.9
1975	101.5	102.2	106.7	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	227.6	929.0	3.9	150.0[1]	100.0	100.0
1976	102.0	103.1	106.5	104.7	157.1	16.5	299.0	219.6	263.3	1,269.8[1]	5.4[1]	120.4[1]	109.9	105.5
1977	102.3	103.6	103.6	107.1	182.0	15.8	340.1 p	261.7 p	288.5	1,378.1	5.8	155.6[1]	118.9	107.0
1977 1st qtr.	103.3	105.3	103.3	104	174.1	16.5	341.5	248.0	280.2	1,329.5	5.6	..	115.7	109.1
2nd qtr.	102.0	102.9	102.5	103	181.9	17.4	347.7	259.2	285.2	1,340.6	5.6	157.7	118.0	109.8
3rd qtr.	102.5	103.6	104.3	112	184.7	16.5	340.5	267.7	288.4	1,414.6	5.9	151.9	124.1	106.4
4th qtr	101.5 p	102.5 p	104.4	110	187.4	13.1	330.6 p	272.1 p	300.3 p	1,427.8	6.0	160.1	117.9	102.6
1977 Feb.	103.2	105.3	104.0	113	174.1	16.2	339.5	248.2	278.7	1,330.0	5.6	148.8	115.2	103.4
Mar.	103.3	105.5	101.1	104	175.8	16.7	347.2	250.8	283.8	1,328.5	5.6	154.0	116.5	107.0
Apr.	102.4	103.5	102.3	106	180.3	17.5	349.7	255.4	283.1	1,333.8	5.6	155.5	116.2	105.3
May	103.6	105.1	103.2	108	181.7	17.1	348.3	259.8	286.2	1,323.8	5.5	159.4	116.0	109.6
June	100.1	100.1	102.1	95	183.6	17.7	345.2	262.4	286.2	1,364.3	5.7	158.1	121.9	114.5
July	102.6	104.2	104.8	113	183.8	17.6	344.5	265.8	286.5	1,398.5	5.9	155.2	123.1	110.4
Aug.	102.6	103.3	104.7	116	184.7	16.5	338.8	268.1	288.7	1,410.3	5.9	153.4	123.4	101.3
Sept.	102.4	103.3	103.5	107	185.7	15.6	338.1	269.2	290.1	1,434.9	6.0	147.2	125.9	107.5
Oct.	101.1	102.2	102.7	116	186.5	14.1	333.8	271.0	294.6	1,431.5	6.0	156.0	119.4	101.3
Nov.	101.3	101.9	103.1	108	187.4	13.0	329.9	272.0	300.1	1,429.6	6.0	159.4	115.3	98.4
Dec.	102.1 p	103.3 p	106.9	104	188.4	12.1	328.0	273.3	306.1 p	1,422.3	6.0	165 0	118.9	108.1
1978 Jan.			104.9	125	189.5	9.9	324.9 p	277.0 p		1,419.2	5.9	180.3	112.6	114.4
Feb.			106½ p				323.3 p	279.2 p		1,409.0	5.9	187.0	128.7 p	110.6 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−0.9	−1.1	+3.0	−0.6	+1.5		−2.6	+2.1	+4.1	−1.1			—	+8½
on a year earlier	−1.4	−1.9	+1.5	+3.7	+11.7		−3.1	+13.6	+10.1	+6.8			+4½	+2½

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate e Estimate .. Not available [1] Average of available months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Census of production, 1972-76: estimates of regional capital expenditure

The table brings together from censuses of production data on net capital expenditure in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the eight standard regions of England for the years 1972-76. The estimates of capital expenditure for 1974-76 are provisional.

The standard regions for statistical purposes, including this analysis, coincide with the economic planning regions. The boundaries of the economic planning regions in England were adjusted on 1 April 1974 to take account of local government reorganisation under the Local Government Act 1972. The figures for 1972-73 are on the basis of the regions as they existed before 1 April 1974; those for 1974-76 are on the new basis.

Inquiries about the annual census of production should be made to the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG, tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2455.

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Net capital expenditure by industry groups [1] [2]

All manufacturing industries: all establishments in the United Kingdom — £ million

		Food, drink and tobacco	Coal, petroleum, chemical products and metal manufacture	Engineering and allied industries	Textiles, leather and clothing	Other manufacturing industries	All manufacturing industries
Orders		III	IV-VI	VII-XII	XIII-XV	XVI-XIX	III-XIX
United Kingdom	1972	279.2	670.1	521.7	140.7	365.7	1 977.3
	1973	358.3	543.2	676.7	232.1	472.1	2 282.3
	1974 [3]	469.4	853.5	1 011.4	291.0	588.8	3 214.1
	1975 [3]	473.7	1 312.6	1 099.6	268.5	560.2	3 714.6
	1976 [3]	530.1	1 424.9	1 228.9	234.5	626.3	4 044.7
Standard regions							
North	1972	13.0	97.3	37.0	8.2	17.0	172.4
	1973	18.7	87.2	34.1	22.5	23.9	186.4
	1974 [3]	18.1	181.4	58.3	22.0	26.6	306.4
	1975 [3]	15.0	336.8	69.7	16.9	24.7	463.1
	1976 [3]	25.6	351.4	55.8	15.5	30.5	478.8
Yorkshire and Humberside	1972	15.9	137.4	38.3	28.3	29.6	249.5
	1973	31.0	76.2	48.3	43.9	44.1	243.4
	1974 [3]	40.8	148.5	67.1	55.4	63.6	375.4
	1975 [3]	31.7	238.4	81.9	54.9	56.9	463.8
	1976 [3]	46.4	227.6	90.4	45.6	57.6	467.6
East Midlands	1972	22.0	20.0	28.5	22.5	25.3	118.3
	1973	28.3	19.0	36.1	28.2	30.1	141.8
	1974 [3]	32.3	30.1	55.0	31.3	40.1	188.8
	1975 [3]	33.2	37.6	65.8	26.1	43.5	206.2
	1976 [3]	41.0	62.9	91.3	35.5	59.6	290.3
East Anglia	1972	18.0	4.8	8.5	0.8	12.7	44.8
	1973	17.2	4.9	18.1	1.5	17.1	58.8
	1974 [3]	24.0	7.6	27.0	1.4	21.3	81.3
	1975 [3]	24.7	8.9	32.2	2.1	20.8	88.7
	1976 [3]	25.4	13.2	32.0	1.5	17.4	89.6
South East	1972	59.4	69.5	151.1	11.9	109.5	401.4
	1973	72.5	87.0	196.6	11.9	138.4	506.4
	1974 [3]	115.3	130.3	325.2	24.4	175.7	770.9
	1975 [3]	111.1	153.6	342.5	17.0	154.8	779.0
	1976 [3]	129.6	156.4	337.0	18.7	191.8	833.6
South West	1972	26.7	11.4	34.2	3.2	20.5	95.9
	1973	30.7	10.8	39.4	4.4	26.9	112.2
	1974 [3]	39.3	16.5	65.6	8.5	31.4	161.3
	1975 [3]	25.5	13.3	69.6	7.5	29.9	145.8
	1976 [3]	35.2	17.1	66.3	6.1	39.0	163.8
West Midlands	1972	33.4	32.2	85.4	6.1	38.2	195.3
	1973	32.4	39.8	105.7	8.4	54.4	240.7
	1974 [3]	34.5	58.2	157.5	7.5	59.3	317.0
	1975 [3]	38.0	79.0	160.1	6.8	54.1	338.0
	1976 [3]	46.8	80.8	224.9	9.3	67.4	429.2
North West	1972	35.2	117.4	61.3	24.6	53.9	292.4
	1973	48.4	61.9	91.6	51.6	68.3	321.7
	1974 [3]	68.1	93.6	113.7	76.5	76.8	428.7
	1975 [3]	60.5	119.9	128.2	73.4	79.2	461.2
	1976 [3]	66.0	161.8	154.0	53.7	75.3	510.8
England	1972	223.5	490.0	444.3	105.5	306.7	1 570.0
	1973	279.3	386.8	569.9	172.5	403.1	1 811.4
	1974 [3]	372.4	666.2	869.2	227.0	494.8	2 629.5
	1975 [3]	339.7	987.4	950.0	204.6	463.9	2 945.7
	1976 [3]	416.0	1 071.3	1 052.0	185.9	538.6	3 263.8
Wales	1972	6.4	131.9	27.2	4.5	13.6	183.7
	1973	7.4	104.9	28.5	9.0	18.8	168.7
	1974 [3]	8.5	100.9	40.3	10.5	27.6	187.8
	1975 [3]	16.4	171.3	37.1	10.2	17.2	252.2
	1976 [3]	19.2	224.7	47.9	7.9	20.4	320.0
Scotland	1972	40.3	47.2	41.0	11.3	34.7	174.5
	1973	56.1	49.6	63.2	19.4	41.4	229.8
	1974 [3]	71.7	82.4	77.4	24.9	53.8	310.2
	1975 [3]	95.9	146.0	86.9	23.7	67.4	419.7
	1976 [3]	71.4	121.0	112.6	22.2	50.4	377.5
Northern Ireland	1972	8.9	1.0	9.2	19.4	10.7	49.1
	1973	15.4	1.9	15.1	31.2	8.7	72.3
	1974 [3]	16.8	3.8	24.5	28.8	12.7	86.6
	1975 [3]	21.9	8.1	25.6	30.0	11.7	97.2
	1976 [3]	23.4	8.0	16.7	18.6	16.9	83.5

[1] Net capital expenditure: new building work plus acquisitions less disposals of land and existing buildings, plant and machinery and vehicles. Capital expenditure in respect of establishments where production had not commenced before the end of the year, is included. [2] Industry groups: orders or combinations of orders in the Standard Industrial Classification (revised 1968). [3] Provisional estimates: those for 1974 and 1975 were originally published in *Trade and Industry*, 11 March 1977.

Consumers spend over £3,000m on beer
Manufacturers' sales of jewellery - £176m
Manufacturers' sales of perfumes, colognes and toilet waters top £45m
Population of Greater Manchester - 2,684,000
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Wholesale price indices in February

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of all manufactured products increased by ¾ per cent in February to 279.2 (1970 = 100).

The index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco was also ¾ per cent higher. The residual effect of January's price increases for vehicles accounted for more than a quarter of the increase. This index rose 2¾ per cent in the latest three months.

The 1¾ per cent increase in the index for the vehicles industry reflects the residual effect of the January price rises for motor cars and commercial vehicles. The full effect of these higher prices is shown in the 4¾ per cent increase in this index in the latest three months.

The main contributors to the 1½ per cent increase in the index for the pottery and glass industries were glass containers.

Men's and boys suits accounted for almost half of the ¾ per cent increase in the index for the clothing and footwear industries.

Pre-cast concrete products were the main contributors to the ¾ per cent increase in the index for the bricks, cement etc industries.

Higher prices for wallpaper accounted for

More about wholesale price indices

Tables 1, 1a and 2	01-215 3544
Tables 3a and 4a	
engineering	01-215 3549
chemicals, steel, building materials, etc	01-215 5216
textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc	01-215 3548
Tables 3b, 4b and 5	01-215 3173

Correspondence: Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection, Economics and Statistics Division 4, Room 249, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB

Table 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC Orders or MLH Numbers		1976	1977				1977							1978	
		4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Feb	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	329.9	341.5	347.7	340.5	330.6	339.5	344.5	338.8	338.1	333.8	329.9	328.0	324.9	323.3
	Materials [1]	339.7	351.6	356.1	347.6	336.6	349.7	352.0	345.8	344.9	340.2	335.8	333.7	330.0	328.2
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	236.3	244.8	267.8	273.0	273.3	242.6	272.9	273.0	273.0	273.1	273.3	273.6	276.6	276.6
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries:	348.4	355.8	359.0	355.8	345.2	354.7	359.0	354.6	353.9	349.9	344.1	341.6	333.2	331.6
	Materials [1]	364.3	371.6	372.0	367.7	355.5	370.6	371.3	366.3	365.4	360.9	354.2	351.3	341.3	339.5
Order III	Materials and fuel purchased by the food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	283.1	303.0	320.1	309.8	303.8	299.9	314.2	307.8	307.3	303.8	303.9	303.7	310.9	309.5
	Materials and fuels purchased by selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries:	288.7	309.4	322.9	308.0	302.7	305.6	314.2	304.9	305.0	302.2	303.0	302.8	311.2	309.2
	Materials	289.5	310.3	323.4	307.8	302.3	306.5	314.2	304.6	304.7	301.8	302.6	302.4	311.1	309.0
	Fuel [2]	268.0	283.7	309.1	312.2	311.6	282.2	313.3	311.9	311.4	311.4	311.6	311.7	313.4	313.4
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	284.9	307.1	321.2	308.0	302.4	302.8	313.8	304.9	305.4	302.0	302.9	302.2	309.8	308.0
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	310.3	319.3	330.4	327.0	326.7	317.8	328.5	326.0	326.5	327.7	325.6	326.7	323.3	323.7
311 and 312	Steel industries	299.5	303.7	319.7	324.4	327.2	303.3	321.7	325.0	326.5	326.8	328.4	326.3	323.9	323.2
321 to 323	Non-ferrous metals industry	205.4	222.3	220.0	213.6	213.9	222.2	216.3	212.1	212.5	215.4	211.8	214.4	206.2	201.5
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	274.9	283.7	289.1	294.9	301.7	283.6	292.6	295.1	296.9	301.3	301.5	302.2	305.1	305.7
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	238.1	249.2	252.3	251.4	254.6	249.3	251.4	250.5	252.3	254.8	253.6	255.5	256.4	255.7
Order X	Shipbuilding and marine engineering industries	266.2	275.9	281.7	285.4	294.2	276.0	284.8	285.5	285.8	293.8	294.3	294.6	296.4	297.4
Order XII	Metal goods industries	291.4	298.2	302.6	305.8	312.4	297.6	303.4	305.1	309.0	313.5	312.4	311.3	313.6	316.2
Order XIII	Textile industries	298.8	298.6	297.1	290.3	286.9	299.3	293.9	289.6	287.4	288.8	285.2	286.8	285.0	287.6
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	231.0	240.9	246.9	249.3	250.4	241.3	249.0	249.0	249.8	250.0	250.3	250.9	254.4	255.1
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc, industries	282.4	298.3	313.8	321.4	325.6	297.3	320.2	321.6	322.5	324.8	325.5	326.5	330.4	331.2
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	274.6	289.4	306.3	315.9	320.3	288.6	314.7	315.8	317.1	319.8	320.3	320.8	325.6	326.2
Order XVII	Timber industries	307.0	319.9	327.4	329.5	323.8	319.7	330.8	330.8	327.4	325.9	323.9	321.6	321.2	320.2
481 to 484	Paper industries	304.7	312.5	317.6	314.1	291.8	312.1	318.4	312.2	311.7	294.9	291.9	288.5	282.4	281.5
Order XX	Construction materials	271.5	284.0	294.0	301.4	305.3	284.8	300.3	302.0	301.8	304.4	305.6	306.0	307.0	308.6
Part of Order XX	House building materials	276.3	288.6	299.8	308.2	310.8	289.6	306.7	309.2	308.7	310.2	311.2	310.9	311.4	313.0

Note: The price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors: transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.
[1] Includes crude oil and coal for carbonising. [2] Includes petroleum products. p Provisional.

Table 1a Price index numbers of materials and fuel purchased by selected sectors of industry

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1976	1977				1977							1978	
		4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Feb	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
361	Electrical machinery industry	256.2	264.2	268.3	271.3	276.8	264.1	270.1	270.9	273.0	276.8	276.3	277.2	279.4	279.8
362	*Insulated wires and cables industry*	187.0	198.6	197.7	188.9	188.9	198.4	192.1	187.2	187.5	189.5	187.1	190.1	189.0	187.0
364	Radio and electronic components industry	248.4	259.5	266.7	270.7	275.4	259.4	269.4	270.2	272.6	275.2	275.1	276.0	278.2	278.9
368	Domestic appliances industry	246.3	255.0	260.2	264.6	269.2	254.4	263.1	264.1	266.7	268.9	269.1	269.7	272.3	273.3
369	*Electrical goods industries n.e.s.*	240.9	254.2	259.0	259.7	264.1	254.3	259.0	258.7	261.5	263.9	263.5	264.9	265.2	263.9
381	Motor vehicle industry	276.3	285.2	291.0	298.4	304.1	285.4	295.2	298.5	301.5	303.4	304.4	304.5	308.1	309.2
411	Man-made fibres industry	275.8	277.8	284.6	286.5	284.7 p	277.5	287.5	285.9	286.0	285.4	284.0	284.6 p	282.9	284.3
414	*Woollen and worsted industry*	338.4	333.3	315.9	309.0	306.7	336.2	312.5	309.5	305.1	310.1	305.0	305.0	296.6	299.4
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs industry	257.5	269.3	277.5	275.5	271.8	268.6	277.6	275.2	273.8	272.8	271.6	270.9	271.8	272.6
450	*Footwear industry*	231.6	239.3	245.6	248.5	249.6	240.2	247.2	248.5	249.9	249.4	249.7	249.6	255.7	257.1
481	Paper and board making industry	318.4	318.1	325.1	318.2	284.3	318.0	324.6	315.5	314.5	288.9	284.6	279.4	270.5	269.7

p Provisional.

three-quarters of the ¾ per cent increase in the index for the paper industries.

Higher prices for tinplate were responsible for the ¼ per cent increase in the steel industries index.

Higher prices for a range of products, especially biscuits and cakes, partially offset by lower coffee prices were responsible for the ¾ per cent increase in February in the index for the output of the food manufacturing industries. This index increased by 2¼ per cent in the latest three months.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a 12-month period fell for the seventh successive month, from 13 per cent in January to 12½ per cent in February. The increase over the latest six months was 4¼ per cent as in January.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry fell by ½ per cent in February to 323.3. This index has now fallen for 10 successive months, and is 4¾ per cent lower than in February 1977.

The index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries fell by ½ per cent in February. Crude oil accounted for over half the fall. This index has fallen by 4¼ per cent in the latest three months.

Lower prices for lead and, to a lesser extent, copper were mainly responsible for the 2¼ per cent fall in the index for materials and fuel purchased by the non-ferrous metals industry. This index has fallen by 4¾ per cent in the latest three months. Lead and copper were also primarily responsible for the small fall in the index for the electrical engineering industries.

Higher prices for tinplate and, to a lesser extent, gold were mainly responsible for the increase of ¾ per cent in the index for the metal goods industries.

Wool and cotton were the main contributors to the increase of 1 per cent in the index for the textiles industries.

The index for the paper industries again fell in February reflecting lower prices for imported woodpulp and paper and paperboard. Lower prices for imported softwood and hardwood were responsible for the fall of ¼ per cent in the index for the timber industries.

The index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries fell by ¾ per cent. This was mainly due to lower prices for fish and coffee. In the latest three months this index rose 2 per cent.

Notes on wholesale price indices

1 Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry*, 13 May 1977.

2 The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

3 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by sectors of industry.

4 Firm and provisional indices, at all levels of aggregation, include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Additional provisional figures will be published for those indices where there are insufficient returns to allow accurate imputation.

5 Revisions to firm index numbers will only be made if they are significant. These revisions will be notified when the series are next published.

6 A list of commodities produced in the United Kingdom supplementary to those shown in table 3a is published in table 4a in April, August and December. Similarly a list of commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom supplementary to those shown in table 3b is published in table 4b.

Table 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1976	1977				1977							1978	
		4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	Feb	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan p	Feb p
Orders III to XIX	Output of manufactured products	233.9	248.0	259.2	267.7	272.1	248.2	265.8	268.1	269.2	271.0	272.0	273.3	277.0	279.2
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industries other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	241.2	254.5	264.4	272.9	279.1	254.9	270.2	273.3	275.1	277.6	279.3	280.5	284.8	287.2
	Output of selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	252.2	267.3	282.9	294.7	294.1	267.1	295.1	294.7	294.2	294.0	292.8	295.6	297.2	299.3
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	247.3	262.5	279.1	293.7	296.1	262.2	292.9	293.9	294.3	295.3	294.6	298.3	300.1	302.3
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	228.8	239.7	248.5	256.9	261.3	239.5	255.7	257.1	258.0	260.1	261.4	262.3	267.3	268.9
Order VI	Metal manufacturing	271.8	283.8	286.4	291.9	300.3	283.8	288.7	291.6	295.3	300.6	299.7	300.6	304.7	304.7
311 and 312	Steel industries	300.2	311.0	313.1	321.6	334.7	310.8	316.7	321.3	326.7	334.3	334.8	334.9	341.7	342.6
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	236.3	248.1	258.3	267.6	275.2	248.4	264.1	268.5	270.3	273.1	275.3	277.1	281.5	284.7
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	244.5	255.7	264.3	273.2	281.4	255.5	270.2	273.4	275.9	279.1	281.6	283.6	289.0	291.1
Order VIII	Instrument engineering	203.7	211.6	217.3	227.4	233.2	211.7	224.5	228.0	229.7	231.2	232.2	236.3	242.2	243.1
Order IX	Electrical engineering	214.1	223.1	232.6	237.8	245.5	222.7	236.3	237.7	239.3	242.9	246.6	247.0	248.9	251.6
Order XI (excluding MLH 383)	Vehicles	260.0	277.1	293.5	308.6	316.4	279.9	300.8	311.6	313.4	314.6	315.8	318.8	325.0	331.0
Order XII	Metal goods industries n.e.s.	253.6	263.5	272.1	278.2	287.3	263.6	276.7	278.2	279.8	286.1	287.4	288.5	291.8	293.8
Order XIII	Textile industries	219.9	234.9	241.6	244.7	247.6	235.2	244.1	244.6	245.4	246.8	247.5	248.4	253.6	254.6
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	193.7	202.4	206.6	213.3	218.7	202.3	211.2	212.8	215.9	217.4	219.0	219.7	225.1	226.6
441 to 445 and 449	Made-up clothing	188.5	195.5	198.4	204.4	209.9	195.5	202.1	203.8	207.3	208.8	209.9	210.9	214.7	216.5
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc, industries	265.6	279.8	294.7	309.5	317.7	280.6	307.0	309.5	312.1	315.9	318.2	318.9	320.0	322.3
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	241.5	251.4	266.2	272.2	285.1	251.2	268.8	270.2	277.6	281.8	286.0	287.5	289.5	293.5
Order XVII	Timber industries	248.5	266.6	275.7	280.8	286.3	266.9	279.2	280.7	282.4	285.4	286.4	287.1	292.4	295.3
481 to 484	Paper industries	266.0	278.5	284.4	290.1	294.9	278.5	288.1	289.5	292.7	294.5	295.0	295.2	295.6	296.8

Note: The price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors: transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.
p Provisional.

Table 3a Commodities produced in the United Kingdom (published monthly)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1977 Feb	1977 Nov	1977 Dec	1978 Jan p	1978 Feb p
	Mining and quarrying					
101	Coal	356.3	410.4	410.5	410.5	410.5
102	Stone and slate quarrying and mining	299.1	329.1	331.2	332.7	332.9
102/1	Granite and limestone roadstone	278.4	308.8	309.5	311.6	311.8
	Coated limestone roadstone	358.2	385.0	385.0	387.9	387.9
	Granite and other chippings	254.2	277.2	278.3	280.9	281.9
103	Chalk, clay, sand and gravel extraction					
	Sand and gravel – ex pit or works	275.9	330.1	331.7	332.5	335.8
	Sand and gravel – delivered	228.0	258.5	261.4	263.5	263.5
	Food, drink and tobacco					
240	Tobacco	190.6	214.3	214.3	219.7	219.7
	Coal and petroleum products					
261	Coke ovens and manufactured fuel					
	Foundry coke	404.2	468.7	468.7	468.7	468.7
262	Mineral oil refining					
	Petroleum products	475.5	497.6	497.6	497.6	497.6
	Motor spirit two star (including duty) [1]	221.4	226.8	226.8	226.8	226.8
	Medium fuel oil (950-secs including duty) [1]	462.9	505.4	505.4	505.4	505.4
	Derv fuel (including duty) [1]	217.0	240.6	240.6	240.6	240.6
263	Lubricating oils and greases	276.1	293.4	287.8	287.8	287.8
	Chemicals and allied industries					
271	General chemicals	271.0	291.1	291.1	293.1	294.9
271/1	Inorganic chemicals (including inorganic gases)	261.6	286.1	286.7	292.0	291.9
271/2	Organic chemicals (including organic gases)	298.2	309.0	308.4	308.3	311.8
272	Pharmaceutical chemicals and preparations					
	Pharmaceutical chemicals	242.5	268.9	273.5	277.6	278.7
	Pharmaceutical preparations	209.7	229.4	231.7	234.9	236.0
273	Toilet preparations	210.7	230.7	231.6	235.8	237.9
274	Paint	248.9	280.4	280.5 p	284.9	285.8
276	Synthetic resins and plastics materials and synthetic rubber					
276/1	Sythetic resins and plastics materials	234.2	249.0	249.0	251.6	253.1
	Polyolefin moulding materials	245.7	247.8	247.8	249.8	251.1
	Polyvinyl chlorides	263.6	283.0	283.0	285.3	287.3
279	Other chemical industries					
279/3	Explosives, fireworks, etc	275.3	301.4	303.4	310.5	314.2
	Metal manufacture					
311/2	Steel					
	Steel sheets	286.8	307.6	307.6	312.5	312.5
	Electrical steel sheets	296.9	325.9	325.9	325.9	325.9
	Stainless steel sheets	235.4	235.5	235.5	235.5	235.6
	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical)	296.0	318.7	318.7	325.8	325.8
	Galvanised steel sheets	289.9	314.5	314.5	314.5	314.5
	Tinplate	290.8	335.8	335.8	335.8	349.4
	Semi-finished steels	348.6	359.5	359.5	359.5	359.5
	Semi-finished steels for forgings (other than drop forgings)	363.3	382.6	382.6	382.6	382.6
	Semi-finished steels for alloy stainless products (except sheets and tubes)	303.1	316.4	316.4	316.4	316.4
	Semi-finished steels for drop-forgings and stampings	352.2	373.8	373.8	373.8	373.8
	Semi-finished steels for tubes	359.8	367.2	367.2	367.2	367.2
	Semi-finished steel for forgings (other than drop-forgings) (using Public Sector indicators)	360.1	379.4	379.4	379.4	379.4
	Finished steels (other than sheets, tinplate, tubes, forgings and castings)	314.8	334.8	334.8	340.7	340.7
	Steel wire rods	319.7	322.6	322.6	322.6	322.6
	Heavy steel rails and fishplates	347.7	375.4	375.4	375.4	375.4
	Steel plates (alloy)	284.8	341.8	341.8	341.8	341.8
	Steel plates (non-alloy)	303.5	354.7	354.7	354.7	354.7
	Steel sheet piling	331.4	357.7	357.7	391.8	391.8
	Heavy steel bars and sections	332.4	353.7	353.7	384.2	384.2
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	333.6	330.7	330.7	330.7	330.7
	Hot rolled steel strip	356.9	357.3	357.3	357.3	357.3
	Bright steel bars (non-alloy)	315.7	337.2	337.2	337.2	337.2
	Cold rolled steel strip (non-alloy)	313.1 r	329.9	329.9	329.9	329.9
	Alloy steel bars and rods, black (excluding stainless)	279.1	299.1	299.1	299.1	299.1
	Finished stainless steels	256.1	256.2	256.2	261.2	259.6
	High-speed tool and magnet steel	277.5	297.5	297.5	297.5	297.5
	Steel castings	279.5	311.5	313.3	313.3	313.3
	Carbon steel castings	283.8	317.6	320.1	320.1	320.1
	Stainless and heat resisting alloy steel castings	239.0	269.4	269.6	269.6	269.6
	Other alloy steel castings	306.9	336.6	338.3	338.3	338.3
	Structural steel	321.5	332.1	332.1	347.7	347.7
	Forgings (other than drop-forgings)	388.7	415.1	416.2	419.4	419.6
312	Steel tubes					
	Steel tubes and fittings	336.8	361.8	361.9	381.3	381.7
	Steel tubes (other than electric conduit tubes)	340.2	364.8	364.8	385.6	385.6
	Non-alloy steel tubes, hot finished	363.1	388.5	388.5	417.6	417.6
	Pipe fittings	279.7	306.5	308.3	311.1	319.1
313	Iron castings, etc	306.8	338.2	338.9	344.9	347.1
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	298.3	328.3	329.2	336.2	338.8
313/4	Other iron castings					
	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	312.5	337.0	340.2	341.6	360.5
321	Aluminium and aluminium alloys					
	Wrought aluminium	267.7	293.0	295.0	298.1	298.3
	Aluminium: Rolled	271.7	304.1	308.2	308.2	308.2
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	275.2	295.7	299.3	298.5	298.5
	Aluminium: Castings	268.5	285.6	285.2	293.7	294.4
	Aluminium: Forgings	231.0	269.3	269.3	290.0	290.0
322	Copper, brass and other copper alloys					
	Copper tubes	170.8	151.1	153.2	154.0	149.6
	Brass ingots	170.3	144.7	145.8	142.7	140.0
	Mechanical engineering					
331	Agricultural machinery	276.2	312.0	315.9	320.3	321.9 e
	Soil preparation and cultivating machinery	273.3	307.6	315.5	324.2	324.5
	Harvesting, threshing, feed-processing machinery, etc	286.5	323.3	326.7	329.9	330.2
	Pick-up balers	287.7	339.5	339.5	339.5	339.5
	Grinding mills and meal mixers	265.5	293.1	307.6	314.2	317.0 e
	Milking machines	264.2	289.5	289.5	290.8	301.3 e
	Other agricultural machinery (spraying machinery, general purpose elevators and conveyors, etc)	253.5	300.3	303.5	309.1	310.3 e
332	Metal-working machine tools	278.4	308.7	313.9	320.6	322.5
332/1	Metal-cutting machine tools	281.9	313.4	319.8	326.9	328.5
332/2	Metal-forming machine tools	268.6	302.8	302.8	307.6	309.5
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	244.7	269.8	270.8	276.5	277.9 e
333/1	Pumps	236.9	264.7	266.0	266.7	269.7 e
	Kerbside petrol and oil measuring pumps	242.2	265.3	265.2	265.3	268.2
	Industrial pumps	236.6	264.6	266.0	266.8	269.8 e
	Centrifugal, turbine and axial flow pumps	241.8	272.0	274.1	275.2	279.3 e
333/2	Industrial valves	267.6	283.3	284.2	296.8	298.1 e
	Iron valves	276.7	295.6	297.2	308.4	310.8 e
	Steel valves	273.2	286.3	286.5	304.2	304.2 e
	Non-ferrous valves	252.2	268.4	269.7	276.8	278.7 e
333/3	Air and gas compressors	248.3	297.7	298.3	299.5	299.5
333/4	Fluid power equipment					
	Oil/hydraulic fluid power equipment	236.6	254.4	255.8	261.0	261.4 e
	Pneumatic fluid power and control equipment	196.0	222.1	222.1	222.1	224.0
334	Stationary internal combustion engines and steam turbines	255.4	290.3	290.8	298.8	300.6
336	Construction and earth-moving equipment	261.6	296.5	299.8 p	303.4	304.4 e
	Contractors' plant and parts	261.1	296.0	299.2 p	302.9	303.9 p
	Excavators, trenchers, diggers, etc	286.0	324.1	327.1	332.5	332.5
	Concrete mixers	244.3	288.0	290.4	290.7	292.3 e
	Dumpers	250.3	287.3	287.3	291.1	292.8 e
	Crawler tractors	244.0	268.0	276.7 p	283.1	285.0 e
	Crushing and screening plant and parts	259.7	292.6	296.9	300.9	300.9 e
337	Mechanical handling equipment	246.5	277.6	278.4	282.3	284.8 e
337/2	Cranes	250.2	273.6	273.8	280.1	282.5
337/4	Lifting and winding devices	258.1	277.5	277.6	287.1	292.4 e
337/5	Powered industrial trucks and tractors	262.7	299.8	300.4	302.3	305.1 e
339/1	Mining machinery	225.5	241.4 p	243.5 p	245.7	247.6 e
339/3	Commercial and industrial refrigeration machinery	252.0	278.7	279.1	283.9	299.5 e
339/5	Scales and weighing machinery	263.8	296.9	300.9	301.5	301.7
339/6	Portable power tools	230.8	249.9	250.1 p	252.5	253.2
339/7	Food and drink processing machinery	247.9	281.1	281.6	285.0	288.6 e
339/8	Bottle washing, bottling, packaging, labelling and canning machinery	244.3	270.2 p	271.1 p	275.0	276.7 e
339/9	Miscellaneous machinery	251.8	282.2 p	283.3 p	289.2	290.7 e
	Instrument engineering					
352	Clocks, watches and time recorders	236.8	251.9	254.0	264.1	265.2 e
354	Scientific and industrial instruments and systems	212.2	232.3	236.3	242.9	243.9
354/1	Optical instruments					
	Microscopes	194.9	230.1	230.1	252.4	253.8 e
354/2	Other scientific and industrial instruments					
	Process measuring and control instruments	221.4	245.2	254.8	259.9	260.1
	Analytical instruments	197.5	214.2	215.7	222.7	224.1 e
	Spectrophotometers and absorptiometers	163.3	177.6	177.6	185.7	185.8
	Electrical testing, measuring and control instruments	202.3	219.6	219.6	225.9	226.8

Table 3a continued

1968 SIC		1977 Feb	1977 Nov	1977 Dec	1978 Jan p	1978 Feb p
	Electrical engineering					
365	Broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	160.9	171.9	171.8	173.1	175.1 e
365/1	Gramophone records and pre-recorded tapes	197.0	221.2	222.7	222.7	222.7
	Gramophone records	203.5	229.1	230.7	230.7	230.7
	Pre-recorded tapes – cassettes	199.7	219.9	221.8	221.8	221.8
	Pre-recorded tapes – cartridges	170.1	189.2	190.6	190.6	190.6
365/2	Other broadcast receiving and sound reproduction equipment	156.9	166.4	166.3	167.6	169.8 e
	Domestic television receivers †	159.6	169.2	169.2	170.2	171.5 e
	Domestic television receivers – colour †	144.4	154.0	153.7	154.8	156.3 e
	Domestic television receivers – monochrome †	164.0	173.6	173.6	174.6	175.9 e
	Record players and tape recorders	150.5	156.6	156.2	157.1	157.5 e
368	Domestic electrical appliances	202.0	236.1	236.5 p	238.3	238.9
	Domestic electrical cooking appliances	210.1	245.9	245.9	246.0	246.6
	Electric cookers	208.1	247.9	247.9	247.9	247.9
	Domestic electrical heating appliances	215.9	249.4	251.0 p	255.1	256.5 e
	Electric fires	218.7	253.1	253.1 p	259.7	260.8 e
	Electric water heaters, wash boilers, etc	264.6	309.0	309.0	309.6	309.6
	Electric vacuum cleaners and polishers	211.7	255.3	255.3	256.3	256.3
	Domestic electric flat irons	231.7	273.4	273.4	273.4	274.5 e
	Domestic refrigerators, gas and electric	195.5	219.4	219.4	226.1	226.2 e
	Domestic electric refrigerators	202.4	230.5	230.5	236.1	236.2 e
369/2 and 369/3	Batteries and accumulators	253.9	283.3	283.3	290.1	292.3 e
369/4	Electric lamps and fluorescent tubes	214.2	240.6	240.6	240.6	241.7 e
	Vehicles					
380	Wheeled tractors	339.7	388.2	392.9	399.3	400.8
381	Motor vehicles					
	Passenger cars	272.1	308.5	311.0	318.1	326.2
	Passenger cars [3]	248.1	281.3	283.6	290.0	297.4
	Commercial and public service vehicles	297.8	338.4	343.8	350.1	356.1
	Commercial vehicles	300.8	342.0	347.6	354.2	360.7
	Commercial vehicles and chassis not exceeding 3.5 tons Gross Vehicle Weight	299.6	343.7	347.8	355.4	364.2
	Commercial vehicles and chassis exceeding 3.5 tons but not exceeding 16 tons Gross Vehicle Weight	310.4	346.9	355.2	360.7	362.5
	Commercial vehicles and chassis exceeding 16 tons Gross Vehicle Weight	278.9	308.6	317.4	320.1	320.9
	Commercial vehicles not exceeding 1½ tons Gross Vehicle Weight	300.1	347.5	350.3	358.6	368.9
	Commercial vehicles and chassis over 1½ tons Gross Vehicle Weight	297.4	333.5	340.0	345.6	349.8
	Public service vehicles	289.9	327.3	332.5	334.4	334.8
	Metal goods not elsewhere specified					
390	Engineers' small tools and gauges					
	Engineers' cutting tools	227.5	263.1	264.1	265.6	267.8
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	191.6	206.3	207.5	216.0	216.0
	Engineers' cutting tools and parts: non-diamond	229.9	264.7	265.8	266.7	269.2
	Hacksaw blades	234.4	294.4	294.4	295.2	296.6
391	Hand tools and implements	276.9	316.4	319.7	330.1	335.0
392	Cutlery and tableware, etc	248.1	266.9	273.4	281.3	284.9
393	Nuts and bolts, etc	327.4	347.1	344.5	347.2	351.9
	High tensile steel nuts and bolts	345.7	353.5	351.0	357.0	362.2
399	Metal industries not elsewhere specified					
399/1	Metal furniture, office and works equipment	232.6	249.7	252.5	257.5	259.7
	Metal non-domestic furniture	241.9	260.6	264.4	269.3	272.2
	Metal chairs	202.9	220.3	226.6	227.5	227.5
	Metal cabinets	235.5	251.9	259.4	266.6	270.8
399/2	Metal windows and door frames					
	Metal windows	398.4	436.5	436.7	437.0	438.2
399/9	Domestic gas appliances	210.1	233.1	235.1 p	237.7	241.8
	Gas cookers	211.1	232.5	232.7	236.6	243.1
	Gas water heaters and wash boilers	230.6	253.4	253.4	255.7	255.7
	Gas fires and space heaters	199.6	226.0	232.3 p	232.5	233.4
	Gas water heaters and gas fires	208.2	233.5	238.1 p	238.9	239.5
399/12	Miscellaneous metal goods					
	Catering equipment	234.5	257.3	258.0	260.6	262.0
	Plumbers' brassware	211.6	224.1	224.1	225.9	226.4
	Domestic oil burning appliances	259.8	293.0	293.0	299.9	299.9
	Textiles					
411	Man-made fibres production	192.4	196.2	196.6	197.9	198.6
412	Spinning and doubling on the cotton and flax systems	243.7	228.3	228.8	229.8	230.6
	Cotton yarns, cotton-spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	276.9	253.5	253.6	254.7	255.6
413	Weaving of cotton, linen and man-made fibres	249.4	257.8	257.4	262.5	263.3
	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	264.3	261.1	260.5	261.0	261.9
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	231.4	245.4	245.5	254.9	255.6
414	Woollen and worsted	282.1	293.9	294.1	295.2	295.7
414/2	Worsted spinning	264.9	276.8	276.8	278.1	278.8
	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	283.0	295.7	295.2	296.4	297.2
	Yarns of man-made fibres spun on the worsted system	203.8	215.5	216.6	218.7	219.5
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	194.3	206.9	206.8	213.5	214.1
419	Carpets and rugs	239.2	257.4	258.6	265.6	268.1
	Carpets	238.7	256.8	253.0	265.3	267.6
	Carpets – woven	264.0	285.4	286.9	296.8	298.8
	Tufted carpets	188.8	200.4	200.9	202.9	205.8
429	Other textile industries					
429/1	Asbestos manufactures	233.4	253.7	259.2	271.1	271.1
	Leather, leather goods and fur					
431/1	Leather for footwear	215.7	213.7	213.7	224.1	226.1
	Clothing and footwear					
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	220.9	242.9	243.0	253.5	254.0
	Bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc					
461	Bricks, fireclay and refractory goods	284.4	328.6	329.8	332.1	334.4
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	294.2	342.4	342.4	346.5	348.2
461/2	Non-refractory goods including building bricks	279.9	322.1	323.8	325.3	327.9
	Building bricks – delivered	296.5	333.9	333.9	335.0	335.3
	Engineering bricks – delivered	314.5	339.3	339.3	354.0	357.8
463	Glass	254.5	292.6	293.7	295.4	298.9
463/1	Glass other than containers	252.9	284.1	284.9	286.5	289.5
	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	247.3	279.0	279.7	280.4	281.6
	Glazing sheet and plate glass	232.8	265.5	265.5	265.5	265.5
463/2	Glass containers	256.8	305.2	306.9	308.6	312.9
464	Cement	279.9	314.6	314.6	314.6	314.6
	Cement – delivered in bulk	279.8	314.6	314.6	314.6	314.6
	Cement – delivered in bags	280.1	314.6	314.6	314.6	314.6
469/2	Building materials not elsewhere specified	282.3	317.3	318.0	318.8	321.1
	Precast concrete products	268.0	299.6	300.9	303.9	307.4
	Precast concrete pipes – delivered	319.4	365.3	371.1	371.9	374.1
	Precast concrete manholes – delivered	248.2	285.8	288.4	288.8	288.8
	Plaster gypsum	243.9	276.6	276.6	276.6	276.6
	Mastic asphalt	266.2	301.2	300.8	301.7	301.7
	Timber, furniture, etc					
471/1	Timber sawmilling					
	Homegrown hardwood – sawn	279.0	315.8	317.6	319.7	324.6
471/2	Building joinery	315.2	333.1	332.8	338.5	342.1
	Timber structures and structural components	318.4	321.4	320.3	331.8	341.1
	Door sets, doors and door frames (excluding hardwood doors architecturally designed)	325.1	350.6	350.6	353.0	353.0
	Windows and window frames (wood)	326.8	373.0	373.8	374.9	374.9
	Other building joinery (ie architectural and general joinery)	330.7	344.1	344.1	346.8	346.8
472	Furniture and upholstery	236.9	256.4	258.1	264.2	266.9
	Domestic furniture	232.8	253.1	255.2	259.6	261.9
	Non-upholstered furniture – domestic	241.5	265.9	268.6	273.7	276.1
	Bedroom furniture	210.0	230.1	235.0	235.5	239.9
	Bookcases, bookshelves, bureaux, occasional furniture	239.3	257.0	257.3	270.7	274.4
	Dining room furniture	244.2	267.4	268.9	278.9	282.3
	Kitchen furniture	264.7	296.3	298.0	302.9	302.9
	Upholstered furniture	218.7	232.3	233.3	236.7	238.8
	Two- and three-piece suites	208.2	220.3	220.7	222.6	224.4
	Fireside chairs – open wood arm easy chairs	247.1	262.2	266.5	274.9	274.9
473	Bedding, etc	270.9	295.8	295.8	299.9	305.9
	Upholstered spring interior mattresses	278.5	294.3	294.3	295.7	299.8
	Divan sets	290.4	313.6	313.6	321.8	334.5
	Paper, printing and publishing					
481	Paper and board	284.3	289.0	288.8	287.7	287.5
	Printing and writings – excluding newsprint	285.8	285.8	285.8	283.3	283.3
482	Packaging products of paper, board and associated materials					
482/1	Cardboard boxes cartons and packing cases – fibreboard	272.9	296.5	297.0	297.6	297.7
482/2	Packaging products of paper and associated materials					

Table 3a Commodities produced in the United Kingdom continued

1968 SIC		1977 Feb	1977 Nov	1977 Dec	1978 Jan p	1978 Feb p
483	Manufactured stationery	288.8	305.7	306.0	306.8	306.7
484	Manufactures of paper and board not elsewhere specified					
484/1	Wallpaper	239.1	259.8	259.8	261.0	279.4
489	Other printing, publishing, bookbinding, etc					
	General printing, bookbinding, etc	225.7	240.2	240.6	241.9	243.4
Other manufacturing industries						
491	Rubber manufactures					
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	232.2	258.3	258.4	258.4	258.8
492	Linoleum, plastics, floor covering and leathercloth					
	Linoleum and felt base	226.3	257.8	263.7	270.6	272.5
102/1 and 103	Part Aggregates for concrete	230.3	261.4	262.5	264.0	264.0

1968 SIC		1977 Feb	1977 Nov	1977 Dec	1978 Jan p	1978 Feb p
312, 361/2, 362, 369/5	Part Electrical installation materials, domestic	235.9	265.7	264.8	267.0	268.7 e
338, 399/1, 399/3, 472	Part Office equipment and machinery	211.2	227.5	229.4	238.3	240.9
399/1, 472	Part Office furniture	263.4	280.2	282.7	295.1	299.1
412, 414	Part All spun man-made fibres yarns	218.1	230.5	231.2	232.4	233.3

[1] Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons (motor spirits 1 000 gallons) exclusive of rebates. p Provisional. e Estimates which are subject to possible major revisions. [2] Excludes sales to rental companies. [3] Inclusive of purchase tax (before its abolition, VAT and Car Tax. r Revised.

Table 3b Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom (published monthly)

1970 = 100

	1977 Feb	1977 Nov	1977 Dec	1978 Jan p	1978 Feb p
Hides and skins	376.6	315.7	329.7	349.6	343.8
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	246.2	265.7	265.7	265.7	265.7
Copper [1]	141.2	110.1	115.5	110.4	106.3
Lead [1]	298.1	274.9	292.2	269.9	236.3
Tin, ingot min. 99.75% [1]	390.8	450.3	451.3	408.4	409.4
Zinc [1]	333.4	234.3	235.8	217.0	199.6
Zinc [2]	363.4	274.9	268.2	242.5	230.4
Natural rubber	282.9	269.6	257.8	245.4	243.0
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	297.2	275.1	275.1	263.5	263.5
Textiles:					
Raw cotton, all types	403.5	266.0	268.1	277.0	287.7
American types, cif Liverpool	406.8	264.4	267.8	274.8	283.5
Egyptian types, cif Liverpool	387.1	274.3	269.6	287.8	308.8

	1977 Feb	1977 Nov	1977 Dec	1978 Jan p	1978 Feb p
Raw wool – all types	357.2	320.0	311.5	295.1	300.0
Imported	349.7	317.1	309.2	289.8	294.0
Imported, merino	318.5	293.1	289.9	274.6	276.5
Imported, fine crossbred	348.4	316.4	310.1	289.2	293.9
Imported, medium and coarse crossbred	447.3	396.8	377.3	349.1	357.8
British types	399.4	336.4	324.2	324.8	333.8
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	341.4	365.3	365.5	364.4	360.6
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	325.8	326.2	325.6	325.1	324.4 e
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	382.5	363.5 r	356.5	351.7	348.4 e
Woodpulp, imported	353.2	277.9	267.9	249.5	247.5

[1] LME settlement price. [2] Producer's price. p Provisional. e Estimates which are subject to possible major revision. r Revised.

Table 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices [1]

1970 = 100

	Primary commodities: Total $	Total £	Total Purchasers' currencies	Agricultural non-food $	Agricultural non-food £	Agricultural non-food Purchasers' currencies	Non-ferrous metals $	Non-ferrous metals £	Non-ferrous metals Purchasers' currencies	Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals [2] $	Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals [2] £	Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals [2] Purchasers' currencies
1974 1st qtr	303	318	274	232	244	209	160	168	144	284	298	256
2nd qtr	304	304	263	229	229	198	183	183	159	288	287	249
3rd qtr	309	315	274	221	225	196	142	145	126	287	292	254
4th qtr	320	330	284	212	213	186	126	130	111	294	303	258
1975 1st qtr	312	313	261	201	202	168	124	124	101	287	287	240
2nd qtr	299	309	250	198	204	166	121	125	101	275	284	230
3rd qtr	295	333	261	196	220	173	118	133	105	271	306	240
4th qtr	301	354	271	191	224	172	116	136	104	276	324	249
1976 1st qtr	306	368	279	202	243	184	120	144	109	281	338	256
2nd qtr	310	412	289	212	282	198	135	179	126	286	381	267
3rd qtr	314	427	291	227	308	211	140	190	130	291	395	270
4th qtr	316	459	290	232	337	213	131	190	120	291	423	267
1977 1st qtr	340	476	310	242	339	221	141	197	129	313	439	286
2nd qtr	348	486	314	250	349	225	142	198	128	320	447	289
3rd qtr [3]	341	472	304	229	317	204	137	189	122	314	434	279
4th qtr [4]	*331*	*438*	*286*	*221*	*292*	*190*	*143*	*190*	*124*	*306*	*404*	*264*
1978 January [4]	*338*	*419*	*282*	*228*	*283*	*190*	*146*	*181*	*122*	*312*	*387*	*260*
February [4]	*336*	*416*	*280*	*229*	*283*	*190*	*142*	*176*	*118*	*310*	*384*	*258*

[1] Published by the UN in terms of US dollars. For convenience the index numbers are also shown in sterling and in terms of purchasers' currencies by converting the dollar index at prevailing exchange rates. [2] This combined index is not published as such by the UN. [3] Provisional. [4] Projections by Department of Industry.

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO, or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

Retailers' stocks: notes (see opposite)

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,872 million.
2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, 1974, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book value series have not been given. From April, 1974, the basis of valuation is comparable with that of a year earlier and the percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.
3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.
4 The statistics given in table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.
5 Long-run series back to 1967 for both table 1 and table 2 were included in the article in *Trade and Industry*, 23 September 1977.

Inquiries: 01-215 3705.

Retailers' stocks in January

Amended form of presentation

There have been some amendments to the manner in which the monthly retailers' stocks data are presented, in order to facilitate the interpretation of the series. The data for January 1978 are presented, below, in the revised format and future months will follow in this style. In line with previous practice, longer runs of data for both table 1 and table 2 will be presented in the first stocks article published after the issue of the annual 'National Income and Expenditure' book. Users of these statistics with further data requirements should contact the inquiry point shown in the notes on the previous page.

As before, table 1 presents the results of the questions on stocks included on the monthly retail sales inquiry form, adjusted to take account of the successive annual inquiries (the latest of which relates to 1975). Book values at current prices are no longer converted to index numbers but are expressed in £ million terms. Following from this, the month to month changes in book values are now shown. The series expressed at constant prices is no longer reproduced, although the year-on-year percentage changes derived from such a series are retained for comparison with the equivalent at current prices. It is felt that the data organised in this manner will be of more use and relevance to the contributors to, and direct users of, the monthly inquiry. Throughout table 1, there has been a reduction in the amount of data reprinted each time.

Table 2 still shows the value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices, seasonally adjusted. This is an input into the National Accounts system. However, additionally, the level of the series is also shown now to assist the interpretation of recent trends.

Table 3 contains a statistic not previously published – 'the ratio of stocks to sales for retailers' expressed as an index. In order to derive this statistic it is necessary to bring the component series on to a common base; for the purposes of this table the volume of sales has been scaled and the volume of stocks computed as an index so that for both series Q4 1969 = 100, in line with present National Income accounting practices. However users should be aware that despite this numerical adjustment, the calculation of the constant price sales series uses 1971 base weights (ie the series is at constant 1971 prices) since the 1971 census of distribution is the source of the information for deflation purposes, whilst the stocks series is at 1970 constant prices, again in line with National Accounts. Also the level of stocks relates to the end of each time period whilst the index of sales refers to the volume of turnover during that period. In the short-term one would expect to see, barring anticipatory movements by retailers, the level of stocks to decrease as sales increases and vice versa. It has been previous practice to incorporate such comments and observations on the relationship between stocks and sales in these monthly reports. In the longer term, the statistic shows the level of stocks holding in relation to turnover, how this varies over the economic cycle and the extent to which changes in activity can be met from such holdings.

Table 1 Level of retailers' stocks

£ million — At cost at end of month

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
At book values												
1975	2 766	2 814	2 947	2 856	2 948	2 985	2 962	2 963	3 139	3 452	3 700	3 333
1976	3 151	3 195	3 388	3 389	3 382	3 379	3 311	3 319	3 547	3 941	4 229	3 799
1977	3 656	3 726	4 095	4 163	4 165	4 220	4 029	4 037	4 286	4 695	5 170	4 417
1978	4 197											
Change in book values												
1975	−120	48	133	−91	92	37	−23	1	176	313	248	−367
1976	−182	44	193	1	−7	−3	−68	8	228	394	288	−430
1977	−143	70	369	68	2	55	−191	8	249	409	475	−753
1978	−220											
Percentage change on a year earlier												
1975	15	17	17	10	10	10	10	11	13	14	16	15
1976	14	14	15	19	15	13	12	12	13	14	14	14
1977	16	17	21	23	23	25	22	22	21	19	22	16
1978	15											
At constant (1970) prices – percentage change on a year earlier												
1975	−8	−7	−7	−12	−12	−11	−11	−11	−8	−6	−4	−3
1976	−2	−2	—	5	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	—
1977	1	1	4	5	5	6	3	3	3	2	5	1
1978	2											

Table 2 Retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted — £ million

	Stocks level	Value of physical increase
1971		
1st qtr	1 668	−14
2nd	1 667	9
3rd	1 688	11
4th	1 700	12
1972		
1st qtr	1 708	8
2nd	1 749	41
3rd	1 734	−15
4th	1 715	−19
1973		
1st qtr	1 807	92
2nd	2 016	209
3rd	2 056	40
4th	2 094	38
1974		
1st qtr	2 074	−20
2nd	2 099	25
3rd	2 062	−37
4th	1 985	−77
1975		
1st qtr	1 941	−44
2nd	1 880	−61
3rd	1 896	16
4th	1 920	24
1976		
1st qtr	1 953	33
2nd	1 908	−45
3rd	1 924	16
4th	1 929	5
1977		
1st qtr	2 031	102
2nd	2 026	−5
3rd	1 982	−44
4th	1 946	−36
1977		
September	1 982	19
October	2 001	19
November	2 073	72
December	1 946	−127
1978		
January	1 968	22

Table 3 Relationship of retailers' stocks to retail sales

Index numbers – fourth quarter 1969 = 100 — Seasonally adjusted

	Stock levels at 1970 prices	Retail sales at 1971 prices	Ratio of stocks to sales
1966	91	94	96.0
1967	94	96	96.9
1968	98	100	98.3
1969	100	100	100.0
1970	99	102	96.7
1971	100	104	96.2
1972	101	110	92.2
1973	123	115	107.4
1974	117	113	103.0
1975	113	111	101.8
1976	114	111	102.5
1977	115	108	106.3
1975			
1st qtr	114	114	100.3
2nd	111	113	98.0
3rd	112	109	102.9
4th	113	108	104.3
1976			
1st qtr	115	110	104.4
2nd	112	111	101.0
3rd	113	112	101.5
4th	114	110	103.1
1977			
1st qtr	120	108	111.3
2nd	119	107	111.8
3rd	117	109	107.5
4th	115	109	105.5
1977			
July	114	109	105.0
August	116	109	106.1
September	117	108	108.4
October	118	107	110.2
November	122	107	113.8
December	115	111	103.0
1978			
January	116	109	106.2
February		111 p	

p Provisional

Notes to table 3

1 The index numbers of the level of stocks relate to the end of each time period; the index of sales refers to retail sales during the period.
2 The 1971 = 100 index of retail sales has been rebased on the fourth quarter of 1969 for the purpose of this table.
3 The index numbers of the stocks sales ratio are calculated from unrounded estimates of the data in the previous two columns.

January's figures

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of table 1, the level of stocks at book values in January was £220 million lower than the previous month and 15 per cent higher than the same month a year earlier; at constant prices it was 2 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The estimate of the value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted (table 2) suggests an increase of £22 million in January. Consequently the seasonally adjusted volume of retail stocks now seems to have returned to a similar level to that being experienced in the third quarter of last year. The slight rise in the level of stocks in January coincided with a fall of 2 per cent in the seasonally adjusted volume of retail sales; this is reflected in the rise of the ratio of stocks to sales (table 3), again a return towards the level of the third quarter. See notes on previous page.

Retail sales: provisional estimate for February

Volume

The provisional estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in February is 106½ (1971 = 100).

The estimate suggests that trade in recent months has moved rather erratically with a recovery in February following the fall in January. The level remains above that of the fourth quarter of 1977.

In the three months December to February the volume of sales was 3 per cent higher than in the previous three months.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the provisional estimate of the value of total retail sales in February was 13 per cent higher than in February 1977. In January and February, the average value of sales was also 13 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1977.

Retail sales: volume and value

	Volume seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)		Value not seasonally adjusted – percentage change compared with a year earlier
1976		**1976**	
1st qtr	105.9	1st qtr	+14
2nd	106.9	2nd	+12
3rd	107.3	3rd	+15
4th	105.9	4th	+16
1977		**1977**	
1st qtr	103.3	1st qtr	+14
2nd	102.5	2nd	+13
3rd	104.3	3rd	+15
4th	104.4	4th	+13
1976		**1976**	
Nov	106.6	Nov	+17
Dec	105.2	Dec	+16
1977		**1977**	
Jan	104.5	Jan	+13
Feb	104.0	Feb	+15
Nov	103.1	Nov	+11
Dec	106.9	Dec	+16
1978		**1978**	
Jan	104.9	Jan	+12
Feb	106½ p	Feb	+13 p

p Provisional

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest half per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

Estimates are based on early returns to the monthly inquiry. These returns cover approaching one half, by turnover, of information available at the final stage. Past evidence suggests that the average error (ignoring sign) in the provisional estimates will be about 0.5 per cent. However, as with all estimates based on partial data, caution must be exercised in interpreting a single month's figures.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments for the timing of holidays and adjustments to make allowances for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The final figures for February will be published in a press notice on Tuesday, 4 April 1978.

Inquiries: 01-215 3705

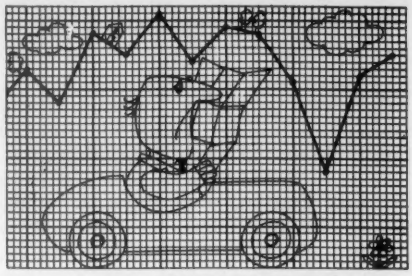
Vehicle production: provisional estimates for February

Provisional estimates of vehicle production in the United Kingdom in the four weeks ending 25 February 1978 are shown below. More detailed production figures are due to be published on 21 March.

Inquiries: 01-212 0788.

Thousands

		Passenger cars		Commercial vehicles	
	No of weeks	Recorded	seasonally adjusted (monthly average)	Recorded	seasonally adjusted (monthly average)
1975	52	1 268	106	380.7	31.7
1976	53	1 333	111	372.1	31.0
1977	52	1 316	110	398.3	33.2
1977					
Jan	4	120	121	34.3	36.7
Feb	4	96	99	33.2	33.3
Mar	5	115	97	42.0	34.2
Apr	4	113	122	29.5	32.2
May	4	140	122	38.9	35.9
Jun	5	117	108	32.8	29.2
Jul	4	75	105	27.0	33.4
Aug	4	79	102	23.5	34.3
Sep	5	116	120	35.3	33.9
Oct	4	103	103	34.1	33.3
Nov	4	113	104	31.0	29.9
Dec	5	128	116	36.5	32.1
1978					
Jan	4	111	112	31.1	33.5
Feb	4	100	104	26.1	26.4
Sep-Nov 1977			109		32.4
Dec 1977-Feb 1978			111		30.7
Percentage change			+2		−5



British Film Fund Agency returns

The British Film Fund Agency has authorised the publication of the following information for the four weeks ended 28 January 1978:

	£
Distributors' earnings submitted	
Low cost films:	
Eligible (after multiplying by 2½)	129 815
Not eligible for 2½ times rental	65 356
	195 171
High cost films (including newsreels after multiplying by 2½)	510 266
	705 437
Films under 3000 ft (after multiplying by 2½)	105 716
	811 153
Levy collections paid to agency by HM Customs and Excise to 7 February 1978 including an estimate of collections approximately covering entertainments for the four weeks ended 28 January 1978	494 000

The third interim allocation for the twenty-first year will be at the rate of 37 per cent.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 10 March 1978.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
BRITISH					
Leopard in the Snow	BR/E 39487C/12/3/83	91	6 March	Enterprise Pictures Ltd	Seastone Productions Ltd, London and Leopard in the Snow Ltd, Ontario
Review No 7 (31st year)	BR/E 39509/12/3/83	9	7 March	Data Film Distributors Ltd	National Coal Board
Trinidad and Tobago	BR/E 39512/12/3/83	20	7 March	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Geoffrey Jones Films Ltd
Pressure	BR/E 39513/12/3/83	103	8 March	Crawford Films Ltd	British Film Institute
Sweet Virgin	BR/E 39514/12/3/83	77	8 March	Target International Pictures Ltd	Norfolk International Pictures Ltd
Jubilee	BR/E 39515/12/3/83	104	10 March	Cinegate Ltd	Whaley-Malin Productions Ltd
Movietone News 2544	BR/E 39392/12/3/83	8	10 March	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
FOREIGN					
Skateboard	F 39508	95	6 March	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
Close Encounters of the Third Kind	F 39510	135	7 March	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd	Close Encounters Productions, California
Telefon	F 39511	103	7 March	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	MGM Incorporated California
Tigers Don't Cry	F 39516	102	10 March	Rank Film Distributors Ltd	Heyns Film and Television Ltd, Johannesburg

Amendment to the Register

The registration number of the film 'Confessions of a Frustrated Housewife' registered on 27 February 1978 has been amended to EC 39488/26/2/83 and the maker to Kua na Produzione and Capital International, Rome.

Price Commission index in February

The rise in the Price Commission index over the six months to February was 7.3 per cent expressed as an annual rate. The corresponding figure for January was 5.9 per cent and for December 6.0 per cent.

While the latest figure suggests that the flat trend of recent months has given way to an upturn, the commission believes the underlying trend to be still stable at about the level reached in the autumn of last year.

The index has been temporarily held down below the underlying trend in recent months while the six months on which it was calculated included August and September 1977. In these months the number of notifications was exceptionally low for the reasons given in the commission's report for the quarter August to October 1977. In February the index is affected by the dropping out of the August figures from the six months calculation and the figure for this month has also been pushed up by the 'bunching' of notifications from nationalised industries.

The Price Commission index is based on price increases proposed to the commission by larger concerns. They cannot make the increase until 28 days after notification and in practice the time lag may be greater than this.

The table compares movements in the commission index with other official price indices over six months in terms of annual rates.

Six months to	Price Commission index	Retail price index [1]	Wholesale price index [2]
1977			
September	7.8	14.1	15.2
October	7.3	9.9	12.6
November	5.8	8.7	9.6
December	6.0	7.4	8.5
1978			
January	5.9 r	7.2	8.6
February	7.3	..	8.5

[1] Excluding seasonal foods. [2] Manufactured products. r Revised.

Carpet industry sales in December

The daily rate of carpet manufacturers' sales by value in December 1977 at current prices was provisionally estimated to have been 5 per cent more than in December 1976 assuming 20 working days in December 1977 and 21 working days in December 1976. In the three months ended December 1977 the daily rate of manufacturers' sales was provisionally estimated to have been 3 per cent more than in the corresponding period 12 months ago, assuming 63 working days in the three months ended December 1977 and 64 working days in the three months ended December 1976. The index numbers which are of manufacturers' sales by value, have been adjusted for the length of the working month, but not for non-statutory holidays or other seasonal factors. The wholesale price index of carpets is shown as a guide to the movement in prices.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017.

Index of carpet manufacturers' sales

1970 = 100

	Index of manufacturers' sales at current prices	Wholesale price index
1969	93	96.6
1970	100	100.0
1971	115	104.9
1972	135	111.7
1973	166	130.2
1974	179	153.1
1975	202	177.8
1976	234	211.3
1977	255	249.8
1976		
4th	283	224.0
1977		
1st qtr	260	239.3
2nd	239	249.6
3rd	230	252.3
4 h	292	257.7
1976		
September	262	218.4
October	287	221.3
November	288	222.1
December	273	228.5
1977		
September	280	254.2
October	293	257.2
November	297	257.4
December	286	258.6

Production of man-made fibres in January

In the three months ended December 1977 the volume of production of man-made fibres, seasonally adjusted, was estimated to have been 15 per cent less than in the three months ended September 1977. Total production by weight of man-made fibres in January 1978 was 10 per cent lower than in January 1977; output of continuous filament decreased by 9 per cent and staple fibre decreased by 11 per cent.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tonnes

	Total	Continuous filament (singles)	Staple fibre
1968	539.1	241.8	297.4
1969	553.9	252.5	301.5
1970	599.4	257.6	341.9
1971	613.1	276.4	336.7
1972	626.5	264.0	362.5
1973	730.8	305.6	425.3
1974	627.6	271.0	356.6
1975	562.5	246.5	316.0
1976	618.4	270.7	347.7
1977	551.8	239.3	312.5
1976			
1st qtr	159.8	70.0	89.8
2nd	157.5	69.7	87.7
3rd	140.4	62.4	78.0
4th	160.7	68.6	92.1
1977			
1st qtr	154.9	67.2	87.7
2nd	150.8	63.9	86.8
3rd	131.0	55.2	75.8
4th	115.1	53.0	62.1
1976			
January	53.3	24.1	29.2
February	52.3	22.6	29.7
March	54.1	23.2	30.9
April	53.1	22.1	31.0
May	53.6	23.9	28.6
June	51.8	23.7	28.0
July	46.7	21.1	25.6
August	43.8	19.5	24.3
September	49.9	21.8	28.1
October	53.0	22.7	30.3
November	54.3	23.3	31.0
December	53.4	22.6	30.8
1977			
January	49.1	20.9	28.2
February	50.3	21.8	28.5
March	55.5	24.5	31.0
April	52.3	20.8	31.5
May	47.7	21.5	26.2
June	50.8	21.7	29.2
July	49.5	20.8	28.7
August	37.6	16.0	21.6
September	43.9	18.4	25.5
October	43.5	18.2	25.4
November	36.8	17.9	18.9
December	34.8	17.0	17.8
1978			
January	44.2	19.1	25.1

Source: Production stats: Man-made Fibres Producers Committee. Index of production: Department of Industry.

Index of the volume of production

1970 = 100

	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1968	87	
1969	92	
1970	100	
1971	106	
1972	107	
1973	127	
1974	111	
1975	101	
1976	112	
1977	100	
1976		
1st qtr	116	115
2nd	115	112
3rd	104	110
4th	116	113
1977		
1st qtr	114	114
2nd	108	105
3rd	92	97
4th	84	82
1976		
January	116	120
February	118	115
March	113	111
April	115	109
May	114	112
June	117	115
July	105	109
August	96	109
September	111	111
October	113	103
November	120	116
December	113	119
1977		
January	106	110
February	118	115
March	118	117
April	111	104
May	103	101
June	112	110
July	100	105
August	80	92
September	94	95
October	90	82
November	86	83
December	78	82

Wholesale textile houses: sales and stocks in December

Sales by wholesale textile houses in December showed no change on a year earlier, compared with an increase of 9 per cent in October and a decrease of 4 per cent in November.

The value of stocks at the end of December showed no change compared with the same period last year.

Inquiries

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP, tel. 01-580 2902.

Table 1 Textiles: wholesale sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	*–3*	..	..
1967	104	*–5*	..	..
1968	108	*4*	..	..
1969	103	*–5*	..	..
1970	107	*4*	..	..
1971	115	*8*	..	..
1972	121	*5*	..	..
1973	134	*11*	..	..
1974	147	*9*	..	..
1975	147	*1*	..	..
1976	146	*–1*	..	..
1977	149	*2*	..	..
1975 1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*–2*
3rd quarter	146	*–1*	193	*–1*
4th quarter	165	*–5*	224	*13*
1976 1st quarter	133	*–8*	234	*7*
2nd quarter	127	*–6*	212	*8*
3rd quarter	149	*2*	204	*6*
4th quarter	176	*8*	228	*2*
1977 1st quarter	140	*5*	252	*7*
2nd quarter	125	*–2*	224	*6*
3rd quarter	153	*3*	214	*5*
4th quarter	180	*2*	228	—
1976 December	175	*15*	228	*2*
1977 January	85	*–1*	221	*4*
February	148	*8*	248	*9*
March	186	*7*	252	*7*
April	139	*2*	228	*10*
May	129	*1*	242	*11*
June	108	*–9*	224	*6*
July	119	*3*	239	*8*
August	142	*4*	227	*5*
September	199	*3*	214	*5*
October	201	*9*	212	*2*
November	163	*–4*	245	*7*
December	175	—	228	—

Table 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks [1]
	Dec 1977	Jan-Dec 1977	Dec 1977
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	1	7	40
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	–32	–10	38
Women's underwear	–6	3	–9
Women's hose and children's socks	2	13	–10
Women's millinery	64	–3	199
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	14	12	–16
Children's wear	–8	4	–8
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	–26	–1	–16
Gloves	–6	14	–36
Piece-goods and nets	–20	–15	–39
Household textiles	–10	7	–16
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	1	—	4
Boots and shoes	–5	7	–14
Total[2]	—	2	—

[1] Including some items not included among the subheadings. [2] Values at cost.

Wool textile industry: output in December

The volume of production in the wool textile industry (as measured by the seasonally-adjusted index of production) in December 1977 was at the same level as in December 1976. Statistics issued by the Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics show that in the year 1977 woven fabrics (excluding blankets) were 5 per cent higher than in 1976; deliveries of worsted yarns (excluding semi-worsted yarn) were 1 per cent higher. Production of wool and hair tops was 7 per cent less and that of man-made fibre tops was 4 per cent less.

Inquiries: 01-212 0017 or 01-212 6474.

Output in the wool textile industry

	Consumption	Production			Deliveries			
	Raw wool (clean weight)	Tops		Woollen yarn[1]	Worsted yarn[2]	Woven fabrics (excluding blankets)[1]		Blankets[3]
		Wool and hair	Man-made fibres			Woollen	Worsted	
	million kg					million sq m		
1968	177.5	96.6	36.4	147.4	98.2	135.8	110.6	27.3
1969	174.5	92.0	42.2	142.2	100.5	130.1	109.2	26.9
1970	153.1	79.7	44.6	129.4	97.6	115.5	99.8	24.6
1971	141.2	66.2	36.6	130.7	93.0	101.9	83.9	28.5
1972	152.3	75.1	45.9	130.9	101.6	99.8	83.7	28.8
1973	136.6	62.2	55.9	135.2	100.0	104.0	88.4	30.6
1974	112.6	43.9	54.8	122.5	87.2	92.1	82.6	28.1
1975	110.6	46.8	44.4	112.1	75.5	76.8	74.6	24.7
1976	119.7	56.5	47.2	108.0	80.8	73.6	69.4	22.8
1977		52.3	45.3	105.7	81.2	78.8	71.3	22.2
1976								
1st qtr	31.0	13.8	11.6	29.4	20.6	16.9	18.2	6.5
2nd	30.5	14.5	12.1	27.9	20.3	19.6	16.9	4.4
3rd	27.6	13.4	10.6	23.7	18.2	19.4	16.9	5.2
4th	30.6	14.6	13.0	27.0	21.7	17.9	17.5	6.5
1977								
1st qtr	32.4	15.3	12.6	29.0	23.1	19.6	18.8	6.7
2nd	29.8	13.9	11.9	27.2	20.2	21.1	18.1	4.8
3rd	24.5	11.1	10.4	23.0	17.5	19.7	16.4	4.4
4th		12.0	10.4	26.5	20.4	18.4	18.0	6.3
1976								
January	10.0	4.5	4.3	9.5	6.4	5.1	5.8	2.6
February	9.6	4.2	3.2	9.2	6.6	5.3	5.9	1.9
March	11.4	5.1	4.1	10.7	7.6	6.5	6.5	2.0
April	10.4	5.0	3.9	9.5	7.0	5.7	5.5	1.5
May	10.2	4.8	4.6	9.3	7.0	7.0	5.6	1.4
June	9.9	4.7	3.6	9.1	6.3	6.9	5.8	1.5
July	8.7	4.6	3.8	7.1	5.9	6.1	5.6	1.5
August	8.3	3.5	2.8	7.7	5.3	6.0	4.6	1.7
September	10.6	5.3	4.0	8.9	7.0	7.3	6.7	2.0
October	10.5	4.9	4.9	9.4	7.9	7.1	6.0	2.2
November	10.9	5.4	4.4	9.6	7.7	6.0	6.2	2.2
December	9.2	4.3	3.7	8.0	6.1	4.8	5.3	2.1
1977								
January	10.3	5.0	4.0	9.0	7.2	5.8	5.9	2.4
February	10.2	4.8	4.0	9.1	7.5	6.2	6.0	2.2
March	11.9	5.5	4.6	10.8	8.4	7.6	6.9	2.1
April	9.6	4.6	3.8	8.6	6.4	6.6	5.7	1.7
May	11.1	5.2	4.7	10.0	7.6	7.4	6.6	1.6
June	9.1	4.1	3.4	8.6	6.2	7.1	5.8	1.5
July	7.9	4.2	3.9	6.5	5.6	6.0	5.2	1.1
August	7.6	2.9	2.9	8.4	5.4	6.5	5.2	1.6
September	9.0	4.0	3.6	8.2	6.5	7.2	6.0	1.7
October	9.1	3.9	4.4	9.2	7.1	6.9	6.4	2.0
November		4.5	3.6	9.5	7.4	6.7	6.5	2.1
December		3.6	2.4	7.8	5.9	4.8	5.1	2.1

[1] Estimated. [2] From January 1969 includes semi-worsted yarn: previously yarn of this type was not separately distinguished and the small quantities involved were divided between the worsted yarn headings. In December deliveries of semi-worsted yarn were 0.7 million kg. [3] Woven woollen fabrics include fabrics which are mainly woollen by weight of components and, similarly, woven worsted fabrics include fabrics which are mainly worsted by weight of components.

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for February

The current account for February is estimated to have been in surplus by £184 million, following the deficit of £234 million in January.

There was a surplus on trade in goods in February of £84 million, following the erratic deficit of £334 million in January. Much of the improvement reflected a reversal of the movements in trade which had contributed to the January figure. Exports were valued at £3,000 million and imports £2,916 million. The balance on invisibles is projected to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £100 million.

Latest three months

In the three months ended February, the current account was in deficit by £24 million, compared with a surplus of £523 million in the previous three months. About two-fifths of this reduction reflected adverse movements in the more erratic elements of visible trade and an increase in the deficit in trade in oil.

In the latest three months, visible trade was in deficit by £326 million, with the surplus on invisibles at £302 million.

Current account on balance of payments basis

VISIBLE TRADE (tables 2, 4, 5, 6 and 6a)

February

In February, there was a surplus on visible trade of £84 million following the erratic deficit of £334 million in January. The improvement reflected an increase of £375 million in the value of exports from a low January level and a fall of £43 million in imports from a fairly high level. This occurred despite a reduction of just over £100 million, to a more normal level, in the balance of trade in the more erratic items (ie ships, North Sea installations, aircraft and precious stones). There were widespread rises in exports (especially machinery, road vehicles and chemicals), while within total imports arrivals of food, beverages and tobacco and chemicals both fell back sharply to December levels.

In terms of volume, exports rose by 14 per cent from the depressed January level and imports fell by 3½ per cent. The export unit value index fell slightly in February, and the import unit value index showed a marginal rise. The terms of trade were ½ per cent lower.

Three months ended February

In the three months ended February, there was a visible trade deficit of £326 million, compared with a surplus of £176 million in the previous three months. A reduction of over £100 million in the surplus on the more erratic items of trade (especially precious stones) from a relatively high level, together with an increase of around £120 million in the deficit on trade in oil from a comparatively low level, accounted for nearly half of the worsening of some £500 million between the two periods. Exports in the three months

Table 1 Current account

£ million, seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible trade: Visible balance	Visible trade: Exports fob	Visible trade: Imports fob	Invisibles: Balance	Invisibles: Credits	Invisibles: Debits
1977 2nd quarter	−364	−764	7 930	8 694	+400	3 874	3 474
3rd quarter	+483	+54	8 540	8 486	+429	4 000	3 571
4th quarter	+351	+45	8 204	8 159	+306	3 949	3 643
1977 September	+198	+55	2 896	2 841	+143 [2]	Monthly figures of credits and debits are not available	
October	+155	+53	2 756	2 703	+102 [2]		
November	+170	+68	2 668	2 600	+102 [2]		
December	+26	−76	2 780	2 856	+102 [2]		
1978 January	−234	−334	2 625	2 959	+100 [1]		
February	+184	+84	3 000	2 916	+100 [1]		
1977 Sep-Nov	+523	+176	8 320	8 144	+347		
Dec-Feb 1978	−24	−326	8 405	8 731	+302		

[1] Projections, subject to revision as information becomes available. [2] One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate; monthly figures of invisibles not available.

Table 2 Current balance, visible trade and invisible trade

Balance of payments basis — £ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible trade: Visible balance	Visible trade: Exports fob	Visible trade: Imports fob	Invisible balance
1976 r	−1 107	−3 510	25 422	28 932	+2 403
1977 r	−35	−1 612	32 176	33 788	+1 577
1976 1st quarter r	−47	−543	5 655	6 198	+496
2nd quarter r	−345	−909	6 171	7 080	+564
3rd quarter r	−377	−1 097	6 499	7 596	+720
4th quarter r	−338	−961	7 097	8 058	+623
1977 1st quarter r	−505	−947	7 502	8 449	+442
2nd quarter r	−364	−764	7 930	8 694	+400
3rd quarter r	+483	+54	8 540	8 486	+429
4th quarter r	+351	+45	8 204	8 159	+306
1977 September r	+198	+55	2 896	2 841	+143 [2]
October r	+155	+53	2 756	2 703	+102 [2]
November r	+170	+68	2 668	2 600	+102 [2]
December r	+26	−76	2 780	2 856	+102 [2]
1978 January r	−234	−334	2 625	2 959	+100 [1]
February p	+184	+84	3 000	2 916	+100 [1]
1977 September-November	+523	+176	8 320	8 144	+347
December-February 1978	−24	−326	8 405	8 731	+302
Percentage change [3]			+1	+7	

[1] Projections, subject to revision as information becomes available. [2] One third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate; monthly figures of invisibles are not available. [3] Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

Table 3 Invisibles

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Invisibles: Total: Balance	Invisibles: Total: Credits	Invisibles: Total: Debits	of which private sector and public corporations [1]: Balance	Credits	Debits
1976	+2 403	14 088	11 685	+4 673	12 944	8 271
1977	+1 577	15 596	14 019	+4 273	14 189	9 916
1976 1st quarter	+496	3 167	2 671	+1 003	2 894	1 891
2nd quarter	+564	3 373	2 809	+1 110	3 095	1 985
3rd quarter	+720	3 687	2 967	+1 279	3 377	2 098
4th quarter	+623	3 861	3 238	+1 281	3 578	2 297
1977 1st quarter	+442	3 773	3 331	+1 112	3 484	2 372
2nd quarter	+400	3 874	3 474	+1 091	3 574	2 483
3rd quarter	+429	4 000	3 571	+1 099	3 630	2 531
4th quarter	+306	3 949	3 643	+971	3 501	2 530
1978 January	+100 [2]	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
February	+100 [2]					

[1] Excluding general government transactions and all transfers. [2] See note [1] of table 2. n.a. Not available.

ended February were valued at £8,405 million, 1 per cent (£85 million) above the level of the previous three months. Export volume was unchanged over this period, but excluding the more erratic items there was a rise of 1½ per cent. The value of imports in the three months ended February was £8,731 million, 7 per cent (£587 million) above the generally low level of the previous period. Import volume also showed a marked increase, of 8½ per cent, again from a depressed earlier level. Trade in the more erratic items had little impact on these figures. In the latest three months, the export unit value index rose by 1 per cent, while the import unit value index fell by 1½ per cent; the terms of trade index rose by 2½ per cent.

INVISIBLES (table 3)

The surplus on invisibles – services, interest, profits and dividends and transfers – is projected to be running currently at £100 million a month. The latest estimates of invisibles relate to the fourth quarter of 1977 when credits were £3,949 million and debits £3,643 million, giving a surplus of £306 million for the quarter (a monthly average of £102 million). Invisibles of the private sector and public corporations, excluding transfers, were in surplus by £971 million in the fourth quarter (a monthly average of £324 million).

Area and commodity analysis of visible trade on an overseas trade statistics basis

EXPORTS

By area *(table 7)*

In the three months ended February, the value of exports to the developed countries rose by 2 per cent in comparison with the previous three months. Deliveries to the EEC also rose by 2 per cent while the value of shipments to the rest of western Europe was down by ½ per cent. Exports to north America rose by 4½ per cent, probably reflecting, in part, some recovery from the effects of the United States east coast docks strike in October and November. Shipments to the other developed countries rose by 5½ per cent. Exports to the developing countries in aggregate rose by 7½ per cent in the three months to February; shipments to oil-exporting countries rose by 7½ per cent, while exports to the other developing countries were 8 per cent higher. The value of shipments to the centrally planned economies fell by 5½ per cent.

By commodity (tables 8, 9, 10 and 16)

The value of exports of manufactured goods

Table 4 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers

Balance of payments basis — Indices 1975 = 100

	Unit value (Not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (Seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade [1]	Exports	Imports
1976	120.6	121.9	98.9	109.9	105.5
1977	142.4	141.4	100.7	118.9	107.0
1976 1st quarter	109.7	109.9	99.8	106.2	100.3
2nd quarter	115.9	118.4	97.9	109.9	106.0
3rd quarter	122.9	124.5	98.7	110.0	108.3
4th quarter	130.2	133.8	97.3	113.5	107.3
1977 1st quarter	136.1	137.5	99.0	115.7	109.1
2nd quarter r	141.7	141.3	100.3	118.0	109.8
3rd quarter r	145.5	144.0	101.0	124.1	106.4
4th quarter r	147.6	144.2	102.4	117.9	102.6
1977 September r	146.3	143.9	101.7	125.9	107.5
October r	147.4	144.9	101.7	119.4	101.3
November r	147.2	143.8	102.4	115.3	98.4
December r	148.3	143.8	103.1	118.9	108.1
1978 January r	149.1	141.4	105.4	112.6	114.4
February p	148.5	141.8	104.7	128.7	110.6
1977 September-November	147.0	144.2	101.9	120.2	102.4
December-February 1978	148.6	142.3	104.4	120.1	111.0
Percentage change	+1	−1½	+2½	—	+8½

[1] Export unit value index as a percentage of the import unit value index.

Table 5 Balance of trade in oil and in other goods

Balance of payments basis — £ million seasonally adjusted

	Visible balance		
	Total trade	Trade in oil [1]	Trade in other goods
1976	−3 510	−3 973	+463
1977 r	−1 612	−2 804	+1 192
1976 1st quarter	−543	−947	+404
2nd quarter	−909	−968	+59
3rd quarter	−1 097	−1 058	−39
4th quarter	−961	−1 000	+39
1977 1st quarter r	−947	−800	−147
2nd quarter r	−764	−745	−19
3rd quarter r	+54	−602	+656
4th quarter r	+45	−657	+702
1977 September r	+55	−207	+262
October r	+53	−228	+281
November r	+68	−154	+222
December r	−76	−275	+199
1978 January r	−334	−236	−98
February p	+84	−202	+286
1977 Sep-Nov	+176	−590	+766
Dec-Feb 1978	−326	−713	+387

[1] Trade in petroleum and petroleum products.
r Revised. p Provisional.

Table 6 Trade in oil[2]

Balance of payments basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of trade in oil	Exports of oil			Imports of oil				
		Total	Crude oil [1] [SITC (rev 2) 333.0]	Rest of division 33	Total	Crude oil [SITC (rev 2) 333.0]			Rest of division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million tonnes	Average value per tonne £ fob	£ million fob
1976	−3 973	1 172	178	994	5 145	4 089	87.0	47.0	1 056
1977	−2 804	1 965	904	1 061	4 769	3 681	68.6	53.7	1 088
1976 1st quarter	−947	221	18	203	1 168	925	21.8	42.7	243
2nd quarter	−968	266	24	242	1 234	962	21.1	45.8	272
3rd quarter	−1 058	307	45	262	1 365	1 080	22.2	48.8	285
4th quarter	−1 000	378	91	287	1 378	1 122	21.9	51.1	256
1977 1st quarter	−800	454	163	291	1 254	1 006	19.1	53.0	248
2nd quarter	−745	516	239	277	1 261	988	18.2	54.3	273
3rd quarter	−602	560	300	260	1 162	880	16.2	54.3	282
4th quarter	−657	435	202	233	1 092	807	15.1	53.2	285
1977 September	−207	192	111	81	399	310	5.7	54.5	89
October	−228	146	61	85	374	281	5.2	54.0	93
November	−154	147	72	75	301	203	3.8	53.1	98
December	−275	142	69	73	417	323	6.1	52.7	94
1978 January	−236	149	81	68	385	313	6.1	50.9	72
February p	−202	153	94	59	355	269	5.4	49.7	86
1977 Sep-Nov	−590	485	244	241	1 075	795	14.7	54.1	280
Dec-Feb 1978	−713	444	244	200	1 157	905	17.6	51.2	252
Percentage change		−8½	--	−17	+7½	+14	+20	−5½	−10

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Trade in petroleum and petroleum products.

Table 6a Value and volume of exports and imports excluding the more erratic items[1]

Balance of payments basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Exports fob		Imports fob	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
1976	23 468	109.4	27 039	106.9
1977	29 501	118.0	31 108	107.4
1976 1st quarter	5 269	106.7	5 858	102 8
2nd quarter	5 639	108.5	6 479	105.2
3rd quarter	6 030	110.0	7 090	109.6
4th quarter	6 530	112.5	7 612	110.0
1977 1st quarter	6 929	115.1	7 927	111.1
2nd quarter	7 276	117.2	7 734	106.8
3rd quarter	7 792	122.7	7 909	108.2
4th quarter	7 504	116.9	7 538	103.6
1977 September	2 626	123.9	2 625	108.6
October	2 509	117.8	2 542	103.9
November	2 421	113.4	2 371	98.3
December	2 574	119.7	2 625	108.5
1978 January	2 440	113.4	2 873	120.7
February p	2 747	127.4	2 641	109.6
1977 Sep-Nov	7 556	118.4	7 539	103.6
Dec-Feb 1978	7 761	120.2	8 138	112.9
Percentage change	+2½	+1½	+8	+9

[1] These are defined as ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones.

in the three months ended February was 3 per cent higher than in the previous three months, with a volume increase of 1 per cent. Within this broad group of commodities, exports of machinery were up by 1 per cent in value but volume was 2 per cent down. The value of shipments of road vehicles rose by 2 per cent with volume down by 1 per cent. Chemical exports were up marginally in value, with volume unchanged. Shipments of metals increased by 4½ per cent in value and by 1 per cent in volume in the latest three months. Textile exports rose by 2 per cent in value and 1 per cent in volume. The value of trade in other manufactured goods rose by 6½ per cent, with volume 7 per cent higher. However, excluding precious stones, the increases were 17 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively. Exports of non-manufactured goods in total rose by 2½ per cent in value in the three months to February. Within this category, shipments of food, beverages and tobacco rose by 16 per cent in value and by 20 per cent in volume (after having been broadly unchanged during the second half of last year). The value of deliveries of basic materials fell by 10 per cent, wholly reflecting

Table 7 Exports by area

Overseas trade statistics basis — £ million fob seasonally adjusted

		Developed countries					Developing countries			
	Total	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Total	Oil-exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1976	26 024	18 612	9 249	4 298	3 116	1 949	6 630	3 221	3 409	726
1977	33 308	23 689	12 128	5 594	3 863	2 104	8 613	4 368	4 245	910
1977 1st quarter	7 716	5 539	2 813	1 300	902	525	1 925	1 026	899	207
2nd quarter	8 272	5 972	3 044	1 446	957	525	2 103	1 074	1 029	245
3rd quarter	8 829	6 290	3 161	1 506	1 083	541	2 213	1 132	1 081	258
4th quarter	8 491	5 888	3 110	1 342	922	513	2 372	1 135	1 236	200
1977 December	2 894	2 012	1 056	422	348	186	832	397	435	68
1978 January r	2 772	1 975	1 015	465	332	162	746	386	359	70
February p	3 109	2 167	1 142	490	343	192	836	406	430	90
1977 Sep-Nov	8 561	6 024	3 148	1 385	978	513	2 241	1 106	1 135	242
Dec-Feb 1978	8 774	6 153	3 213	1 377	1 023	540	2 414	1 190	1 225	228
Percentage change	+2½	+2	+2	−½	+4½	+5½	+7½	+7½	+8	−5½

Table 8 Exports by commodity

Overseas trade statistics basis — £ million fob seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures [2]									
						Machinery and transport equipment [2]								
	Total	Food beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other transport equip-ment [1,2]	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manu-factures	Miscel-laneous
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0+1	2+4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	79	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6+8	9
1976	26 024	1 692	735	1 265	21 616	10 383	6 994	2 377	1 012	3 007	2 362	972	4 892	715
1977	33 308	2 217	895	2 078	27 172	12 680	8 337	2 871	1 473	3 821	2 879	1 193	6 599	945
1977 1st quarter	7 716	494	228	482	6 263	2 863	1 925	669	270	879	699	298	1 543	214
2nd quarter	8 272	539	218	547	6 754	3 105	2 063	723	319	946	751	295	1 693	243
3rd quarter	8 829	591	232	588	7 189	3 394	2 128	736	530	1 029	742	309	1 634	244
4th quarter	8 491	593	218	462	6 966	3 318	2 221	744	354	967	688	292	1 730	244
1977 December	2 894	213	72	152	2 397	1 156	751	260	145	339	244	99	577	81
1978 January r	2 772	222	66	159	2 246	1 026	682	211	132	302	226	100	628	79
February p	3 109	243	69	162	2 547	1 169	771	279	119	351	258	104	645	70
1977 Sep-Nov	8 561	585	230	511	6 987	3 242	2 182	736	323	987	697	298	1 733	265
Dec-Feb 1978	8 774	678	206	473	7 190	3 350	2 204	750	396	992	728	303	1 849	231
Percentage change	+2½	+16	−10	−7½	+3	+3½	+1	+2	+23	+½	+4½	+2	+6½	−13

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Includes North Sea production installations.

lower volumes. Fuel exports were 7½ per cent lower in value and 1 per cent lower in volume in the three months to February.

IMPORTS

By area (table 11)

In the three months ended February the value of imports from the developed countries was 8½ per cent higher than in the previous three months. Deliveries from the EEC increased by 5 per cent over this period. Arrivals from the rest of western Europe were up by 23 per cent, with higher imports of precious stones accounting for about one half of this increase. Imports from north America rose by 4½ per cent, reflecting the effect of the United States east coast docks strike, which appears to have depressed arrivals from that source in the earlier period. Imports from other developed countries increased by 6 per cent. Imports from the

Table 9 Exports by commodity: volume indices

Overseas trade statistics basis — Indices 1975 = 100 seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures [1]							
						Machinery and transport equipment [1, 2]						
	Total	Food beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manufactures
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0+1	2+4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6+8
Weights	1 000	71	26	41	828	419	287	92	107	92	36	174
1976	108.8	103	117	120	109	101	100	104	124	109	117	117
1977	118.9	111	125	164	118	105	102	105	141	117	120	135
1977 1st quarter	115.1	108	131	155	113	100	98	103	131	115	125	133
2nd quarter	118.7	109	118	170	118	105	102	106	141	121	120	136
3rd quarter	123.9	114	130	183	123	110	103	105	150	120	122	131
4th quarter	118.1	115	121	149	117	105	104	105	142	109	112	138
1977 December	119.9	126	117	150	120	108	104	108	149	115	114	138
1978 January	114.9	133	109	161	112	95	93	87	134	106	118	149
February p	129.4	143	120	171	127	109	105	117	154	119	121	157
1977 September-November	119.7	112	129	162	119	104	103	105	146	112	116	138
December-February 1978	121.4	134	115	160	120	104	101	104	146	113	118	148
Percentage change	+1½	+20	−11	−1	+1	—	−2	−1	—	+1	+1	+7

[1] Includes North Sea production installations. [2] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 10 Exports by commodity: unit value indices

Overseas trade statistics basis — Indices 1975 = 100 not seasonally adjusted

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment [1]						
	Total	Food beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Chemicals	Metals	Textiles	Other manufactures
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0+1	2+4	3	5-8	7	71-77	78	5	67-69	65	Rest of 6+8
1976	120.7	115	124	126	121	122	122	123	114	119	115	124
1977	142.5	137	144	150	143	149	148	152	128	136	139	142
1977 1st quarter	136.2	131	143	144	136	139	139	142	127	133	133	137
2nd quarter	142.0	140	152	149	142	145	144	150	129	137	137	146
3rd quarter	145.7	143	146	153	146	152	151	155	130	136	142	147
4th quarter	147.5	140	139	150	149	157	156	160	131	137	145	145
1977 December	148.2	140	139	148	149	159	157	163	131	138	146	145
1978 January	148.9	140	136	145	150	160	159	161	130	142	145	145
February p	148.2	142	134	140	150	160	159	160	129	142	146	143
1977 September-November	146.9	141	140	151	148	156	154	159	130	137	143	146
December-February 1978	148.4	141	136	144	150	160	158	161	130	140	146	144
Percentage change	+1	—	−3	−4½	+1½	+2½	+2½	+2	—	+3	+1½	−1½

[1] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 11 Imports by area

Overseas trade statistics basis — £ million cif seasonally adjusted

		Developed countries					Developing countries			
	Total	Total	EEC	Rest of W Europe	North America	Other	Total	Oil-exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1976	31 569	22 569	11 510	4 645	4 280	2 134	7 860	4 296	3 564	1 109
1977	36 996	27 420	14 161	5 582	4 997	2 680	8 167	3 804	4 362	1 357
1977 1st quarter	9 169	6 608	3 380	1 300	1 259	668	2 157	1 032	1 125	302
2nd quarter	9 601	7 212	3 551	1 647	1 309	705	2 117	1 030	1 087	342
3rd quarter	9 239	6 767	3 601	1 218	1 328	620	2 065	924	1 141	371
4th quarter	8 987	6 833	3 629	1 416	1 101	687	1 828	819	1 009	342
1977 December	3 159	2 438	1 269	551	373	245	637	323	314	116
1978 January r	3 276	2 466	1 266	554	425	221	650	320	329	93
February p	3 155	2 341	1 220	485	415	221	665	296	369	124
1977 September-November	8 955	6 679	3 579	1 289	1 163	648	1 910	832	1 078	351
Dec-Feb 1978	9 590	7 245	3 756	1 589	1 213	687	1 952	939	1 013	334
Percentage change	+7	+8½	+5	+23	+4½	+6	+2	+13	−6	−5

Table 12 Imports by commodity

Overseas trade statistics basis

£ million cif seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures [2]						
									Machinery and transport equipment [2]					
	Total	Food beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other transport equipment [1, 2]	Other	Miscellaneous
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2, 4, 5, 6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	79	8	9
1976	31 569	4 983	5 669	11 245	3 248	1 924	6 073	9 225	6 755	4 305	1 432	1 019	2 470	447
1977	36 996	5 945	5 252	13 491	3 612	2 365	7 513	11 803	8 780	5 298	2 133	1 349	3 023	505
1977 1st quarter	9 169	1 502	1 375	3 358	981	604	1 773	2 739	1 995	1 285	485	225	744	119
2nd quarter	9 601	1 561	1 377	3 462	888	593	1 981	3 086	2 346	1 297	496	553	741	122
3rd quarter	9 239	1 547	1 278	3 324	897	599	1 828	2 964	2 204	1 369	555	280	760	141
4th quarter	8 987	1 336	1 223	3 346	847	569	1 931	3 014	2 236	1 347	598	291	778	123
1977 December	3 159	457	469	1 172	297	189	686	1 050	785	454	227	104	264	42
1978 January r	3 276	543	435	1 180	281	229	670	1 048	751	485	213	53	297	38
February p	3 155	445	405	1 151	274	187	689	1 088	811	463	225	124	277	38
1977 Sept-Nov	8 955	1 367	1 193	3 283	829	566	1 888	3 009	2 246	1 366	583	297	763	131
Dec-Feb 1978	9 590	1 445	1 310	3 503	852	605	2 046	3 186	2 347	1 402	664	281	839	118
Percentage change	+7	+5½	+10	+6½	+2½	+7	+8½	+6	+4½	+2½	+14	−5½	+10	−10

[1] Not seasonally adjusted. [2] Includes North Sea production installations.

Table 13 Imports by commodity: volume indices

Overseas trade statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures [1]				
									Machinery and transport equipment [1, 2]			
	Total	Food beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2, 4, 5, 6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	8
Weights	1 000	177	177	341	92	55	194	283	207	137	37	76
1976	106.4	102	100	112	119	122	106	109	108	104	127	110
1977	108.8	102	83	116	112	133	113	123	125	117	160	118
1977 1st quarter	109.5	105	87	117	122	137	109	118	117	116	148	120
2nd quarter	112.1	107	85	117	109	134	116	130	134	116	150	118
3rd quarter	108.0	104	80	114	111	135	110	123	125	119	168	116
4th quarter	105.5	92	78	117	109	128	117	123	125	116	177	118
1977 December	111.5	96	91	122	115	127	124	128	130	116	203	122
1978 January	118.0	112	87	128	113	161	125	130	125	128	171	145
February p	112.3	89	82	125	114	129	129	131	132	121	176	128
1977 September-November	105.1	94	75	114	106	127	115	124	127	119	174	115
December-February 1978	113.9	99	87	125	114	139	126	130	129	122	183	132
Percentage change	+8½	+5½	+15	+9	+8	+9½	+9½	+5	+1½	+2½	+5½	+15

[1] Includes North Sea production installations. [2] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 14 Imports by commodity: unit value indices

Overseas trade statistics basis

Indices 1975 = 100 not seasonally adjusted

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment [1]			
	Total	Food beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road vehicles	Other
SITC (rev 2)	0-9	0 + 1	3	2, 4, 5, 6	2 + 4	5	6	7 + 8	7	71-77	78	8
1976	122.5	113	131	121	123	120	121	125	127	127	128	121
1977	141.6	132	148	141	145	140	140	144	146	144	155	139
1977 1st quarter	138.4	125	147	140	147	134	139	141	142	141	150	136
2nd quarter	142.0	130	150	144	149	140	143	143	145	143	153	139
3rd quarter	143.9	134	150	144	149	143	142	147	149	147	156	143
4th quarter	142.9	136	146	140	140	143	139	149	152	149	161	143
1977 December	142.5	136	144	139	138	145	138	150	153	150	162	141
1978 January	140.4	137	140	136	134	141	135	148	153	148	168	134
February p	140.4	139	137	135	130	141	136	150	154	148	172	141
1977 September-November	143.3	136	148	141	143	143	139	149	150	148	159	144
December-February 1978	141.1	138	140	137	134	143	136	149	153	149	167	139
Percentage change	−1½	+1½	−5	−3	−6	—	−2	+½	+2	+½	+5	−4

[1] Indices for other transport equipment SITC (rev 2) 79 are not separately available.

Table 15 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted			
	Overseas trade statistics basis (fob)	Overseas trade statistics basis (fob)	Valuation and coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)	Overseas trade statistics basis (cif)	Overseas trade statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)
1976	26 024	26 024	−602	25 422	31 569	31 569	−1 944	−693	28 932
1977 r	33 308	33 308	−1 132	32 176	36 996	36 996	−2 184	−1 024	33 788
1976 1st quarter	5 848	5 784	−129	5 655	6 846	6 763	−423	−142	6 198
2nd quarter	6 459	6 303	−132	6 171	7 927	7 753	−480	−193	7 080
3rd quarter	6 309	6 617	−118	6 499	7 873	8 208	−518	−94	7 596
4th quarter	7 408	7 320	−223	7 097	8 923	8 845	−523	−264	8 058
1977 1st quarter r	7 809	7 716	−214	7 502	9 217	9 169	−577	−143	8 449
2nd quarter r	8 463	8 272	−342	7 930	9 766	9 601	−590	−317	8 694
3rd quarter r	8 486	8 829	−289	8 540	8 964	9 239	−536	−217	8 486
4th quarter r	8 550	8 491	−287	8 204	9 049	8 987	−481	−347	8 159
1977 September r	2 909	2 964	−68	2 896	3 078	3 126	−177	−108	2 841
October r	2 837	2 855	−99	2 756	3 052	3 024	−160	−161	2 703
November r	2 904	2 742	−74	2 668	2 944	2 804	−152	−52	2 600
December r	2 808	2 894	−114	2 780	3 053	3 159	−169	−134	2 856
1978 January r	2 702	2 772	−147	2 625	3 243	3 276	−182	−135	2 959
February p	2 934	3 109	−109	3 000	2 986	3 155	−166	−73	2 916
1977 Sep-Nov	8 650	8 561	−241	8 320	9 074	8 954	−489	−321	8 144
Dec-Feb 1978	8 444	8 775	−369	8 405	9 282	9 590	−517	−342	8 731
Percentage change	−2½	+2½		+1	+2½	+7			+7

Table 16 Exports: Value and volume indices excluding the more erratic items

Overseas trade statistics basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Total [1]		Manufactures: Total [1]		Machinery and transport equipment [2]		Other manufactures [3]	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
1976	23 705	108.1	19 297	108	9 407	101	3 549	125
1977	29 852	116.8	23 717	115	11 245	102	4 578	128
1977 1st quarter	7 008	113.9	5 555	112	2 595	99	1 102	128
2nd quarter	7 356	116.0	5 837	115	2 792	103	1 090	124
3rd quarter	7 889	121.5	6 249	120	2 885	104	1 203	132
4th quarter	7 600	115.9	6 075	114	2 974	104	1 184	129
1977 December	2 608	118.7	2 112	118	1 014	105	433	140
1978 January	2 472	112.3	1 946	108	896	92	457	146
February p	2 782	126.2	2 220	123	1 054	108	433	140
1977 September-November	7 650	117.2	6 075	115	2 931	104	1 132	124
December-February 1978	7 862	119.1	6 278	117	2 964	102	1 323	142
Percentage change	+3	+1½	+3½	+1	+1	−2	+17	+14

[1] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations, aricraft and precious stones. [2] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations and aircraft. [3] Excluding precious stones.

Table 17 Imports: Value and volume indices excluding the more erratic items

Overseas trade statistics basis — Seasonally adjusted

	Total [1]		Industrial materials: Total [3]		Other semi-manufactures [3]		Finished manufactures: Total [2]		Machinery and transport equipment [2]	
	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100	Value £ million	Volume index 1975 = 100
1976	29 399	106.6	10 081	114	4 909	108	8 219	110	5 748	109
1977	33 818	107.5	11 644	114	5 666	109	10 471	124	7 449	126
1977 1st quarter	8 624	110.8	3 034	119	1 450	112	2 518	122	1 773	122
2nd quarter	8 443	106.9	2 856	111	1 375	104	2 534	121	1 794	123
3rd quarter	8 593	108.4	2 951	116	1 455	112	2 691	126	1 931	130
4th quarter	8 158	103.7	2 803	112	1 387	108	2 728	126	1 951	129
1977 December	2 840	108.7	954	114	468	109	949	131	684	135
1978 January	3 099	120.3	1 054	129	544	128	998	140	700	137
February p	2 857	109.6	972	120	511	120	968	132	691	133
1977 Sep-Nov	8 173	103.7	2 793	111	1 398	109	2 718	126	1 955	131
Dec-Feb 1978	8 796	112.9	2 980	121	1 523	119	2 914	134	2 075	135
Percentage change	+7½	+9	+6½	+9	+9	+9	+7	+6½	+6	+3½

[1] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations, aircraft and precious stones. [2] Excluding ships, North Sea production installations and aircraft. [3] Excluding precious stones

developing countries rose by 2 per cent with a rise of 13 per cent in arrivals from the oil-exporting countries, and a decline of 6 per cent from other developing countries. Deliveries from the centrally planned economies fell by 5 per cent.

By commodity (tables 12, 13, 14 and 17)
In the three months ended February, the volume of imports for all of the major commodity groups was above the generally low levels of the previous three months. Imports of food, beverages and tobacco increased by 5½ per cent in both value and volume on the three-monthly comparison, as a result of the high January figure. Fuel deliveries rose by 10 per cent in value and 15 per cent in volume, from comparatively low levels in the earlier period, with a 5 per cent fall in price reflecting the appreciation of sterling against the United States dollar. Between the three-month periods, imports of industrial materials in total were up by 6½ per cent in value and 9 per cent in volume. Within this group, imports of basic materials rose by 2½ per cent in value and 8 per cent in volume, with a 6 per cent drop in prices reflecting the further easing in commodity prices. Deliveries of chemicals rose by 7 per cent in value and by 9½ per cent in volume. Imports of other semi-manufactures increased by 8½ per cent in value and 9½ per cent in volume. Arrivals of finished manufactures (which includes ships, aircraft and North Sea installations) rose by 6 per cent in value and 5 per cent in volume, but excluding these erratic items the increases were 7 per cent and 6½ per cent, respectively. Within finished manufactures, imports of machinery increased by 2½ per cent in both value and volume. Deliveries of road vehicles rose by 14 per cent in value and 5½ per cent in volume, with a sharp increase in price in the latest period. Imports of other finished manufactures (which includes certain consumer goods) increased by 10 per cent in value and 15 per cent in volume.

Notes to February figures

New tables on trade less the more erratic items
The article incorporates, for the first time (in tables 6a, 16 and 17) value and volume figures for trade less certain erratic items. The choice of items regarded as erratic is, to some extent, arbitrary, but experience suggests that, in the context of the short-term statistics, trade in North Sea production installations and precious stones and to a slightly lesser extent, in ships and aircraft, can often have a major influence on the interpretation of the figures. Precious stones are classified to division 66 'non-metallic mineral manufactures' in SITC (rev 2) and the other erratic items to division 79 'other transport equipment'. The new tables contain only those series which include the erratic components. Reference is made in the text, as appropriate to the figures of trade less these erratic factors. Where no mention is made in the text of these factors it can be assumed that their impact on the series including them is small. Figures were also included in the fourth quarter article published in *Trade and Industry* on 10 March.

Revisions
The surplus on invisibles in the fourth quarter of 1977 is now estimated at £306 million, compared with the previous projection of £435 million. The surplus on invisibles for 1977 as a whole is put at £1,577 million compared with the figure of £1,716 million given in last month's article. Details of invisibles in 1977 were released in the CSO press notice on the balance of payments on 8 March.

Standard notes
The standard notes on definitions and coverage of the figures are no longer included in the monthly article. These notes were reproduced in *Trade and Industry* on 17 February.

Inquiries: Economics and Statistics Division 5A, Room 234, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5703 or 3385.

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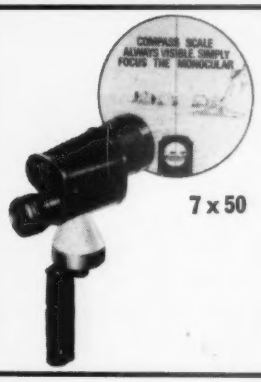

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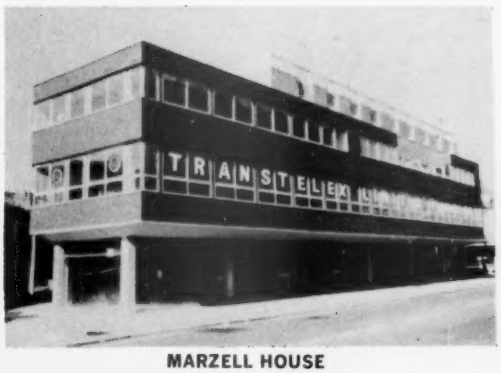

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